PICTURESQUE VIEWS

ON THE

RIVER THAMES,

&c. &c. &c.

PICTURESQUE VIEWS

ON THE

RIVER THAMES,

FROM

ITS SOURCE IN GLOUCESTERSHIRE

TO

THE NORE;

WITH

OBSERVATIONS

ON

THE PUBLIC BUILDINGS AND OTHER WORKS OF ART

IN ITS VICINITY.

IN TWO VOLUMES.

BY

SAMUEL IRELAND,

Author of A Tour through Holland, Brabant, *&c.*

PICTURESQUE VIEWS OF

The Rivers Medway, Avon, and Wye;—of Graphic Illuſtrations of Hogarth, and of Picturesque Views of the Inns of Court, *&c. &c.*

VOL. II.

LONDON:

Printed by C. CLARKE, *Northumberland-Court, Strand;*

PUBLISHED BY T. EGERTON, WHITEHALL.

MDCCCII.

PRINTS

CONTAINED IN

THE SECOND VOLUME.

Page

MAIDENHEAD-bridge, Cliefden Woods, &c. 1

Windſor Caſtle 8

Herne's Oak 16

Eton College 35

Datchet-bridge 43

Staines-bridge 53

Chertſey-bridge, &c. 56

Walton-bridge 73

Hampton Court-bridge 81

Kingſton 91

Strawberry-hill 94

Richmond-bridge 107

Kew-

Page

Kew-bridge 127

Putney-bridge and Church 140

Chelſea 147

Chelſea College, and Ranelagh Houſe 155

Lambeth Palace, &c. 163

Weſtminſter-bridge, Abbey, &c. 169

Somerſet-place 185

Deſign for a Bridge near Somerſet-place, by Thomas Sandby, Eſq. R. A. 187

Blackfriars-bridge, &c. 199

London-bridge, &c. 221

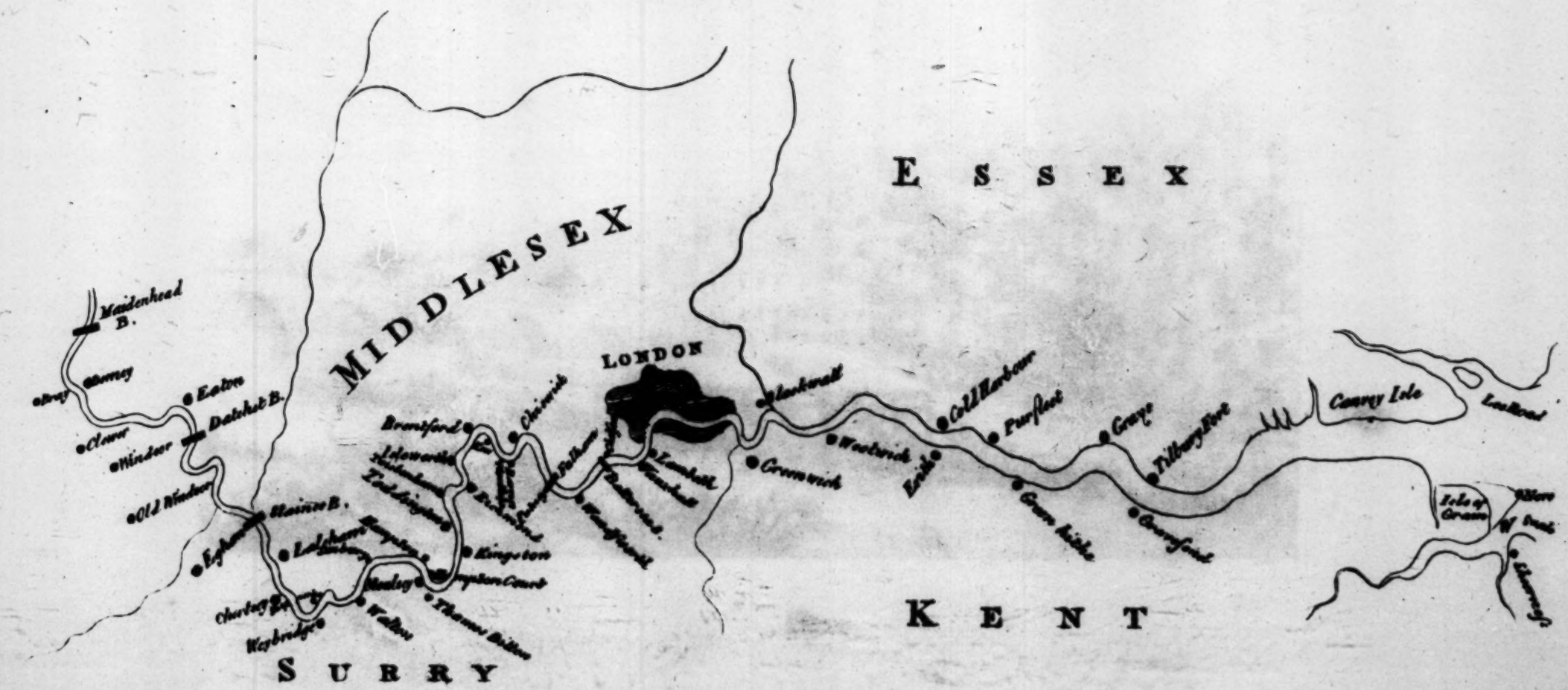
Tower of London 232

Greenwich Hoſpital 239

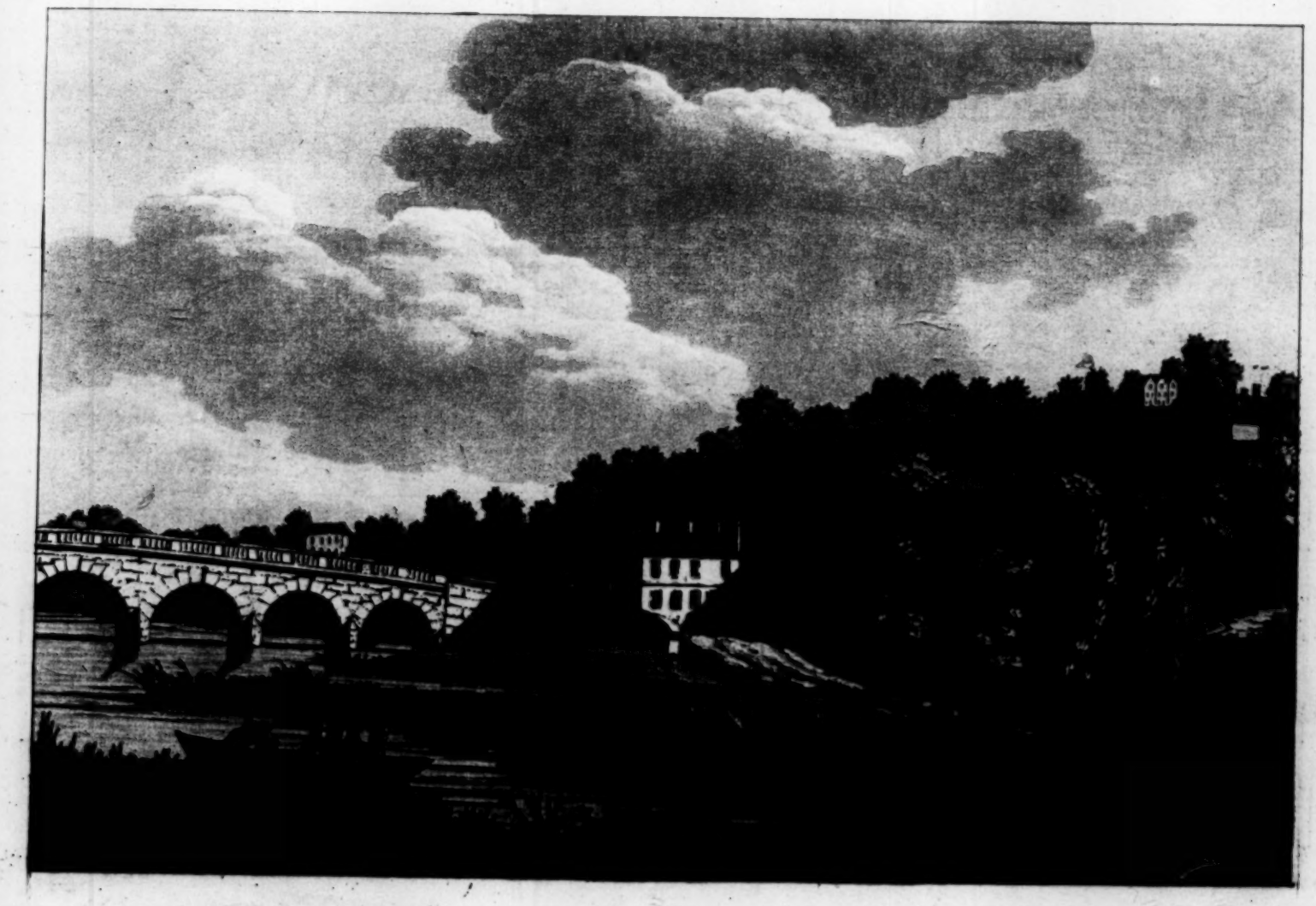
Tilbury Fort 253

PIC-

Course of the **RIVER THAMES** *from Maidenhead bridge to the* **NORE.**







Maidenhead-bridge. Cliefden-woods &c.

Pub.d for S. Ireland May 1. 1799.

Picturesque Views

ON THE

RIVER THAMES, &c.

SECTION I.

HAVING paſſed a variety of ſcenes, rich in the beauties of natural landſcape, and in which art has occaſionally lent her foſtering aid; we are now approaching towards ſuch a combination of magnificence, both natural and artificial, as is perhaps not to be equalled in this kingdom!

CASTLES and palaces proudly vieing with each other in diſplaying the munificence of

their Sovereign;—ſtately manſions of an ancient and ſplendid Nobility;—and rich and coſtly villas, principally raiſed and ſupported by that ſpirit of enterpriſe and induſtry in commerce, which is ſo happily characteriſtick of the genius of Britain.

THE handſome bridge at Maidenhead was conſtructed from a deſign of the late Sir Robert Taylor, and is a work of much merit. It is of ſtone, and conſiſts of ſeven large ſemicircular arches, with three ſmaller ones of brick at each end. It has been finiſhed about nine years, at an expence of nineteen thouſand pounds, independent of the purchaſe of lands contiguous, to render the work compleat. Below the bridge, on a retroſpective view, the hills of Taplow and Cliefden aid the landſcape conſiderably, and render the ſcenery more pictureſque and beautiful than any thing that has yet occurred. From this point the annexed view was taken.

THE

THE town of Maidenhead, which gives name to the hundred, lies partly in the pariſh of Bray, and partly in that of Cookham. The ancient name of this place was Southialington. Whence its preſent name was derived we know not; but it is conjectured by ſome viſionary to have taken its origin from one of the eleven hundred virgins ſaid to have ſuffered martrydom with St. Urſula, their leader, near Cologne in Germany; but a ſhrewd Jeſuit, one Simordus, judging like a prieſt of the improbability of ſo many virgins meeting together, has reduced their number to two, viz. Urſula, their leader, and one other, named Undecimilla. In the time of Edward the Third, it ſeems to have obtained a more rational name, that of the brothers and ſiſters of Maidenhithe, under which it was incorporated.

ABOUT a mile below the bridge is the village of Bray, rendered famous by its accom-

 modating

modating Vicar, who, during the reign of Charles the Second, and the four ſucceeding Monarchs, never failed to conform to the prevailing principle of the times; and, as it is told, when reprobated for his apoſtacy, juſtified himſelf by ſaying, " He had always been " governed by what he thought a very " laudable maxim—never on any terms (if " he could avoid it) to part with his vica- " rage;" or, as the ſong ſaid of him,

" Old principles I did revoke,
" Set conſcience at a diſtance;
" Paſſive obedience is a joke,
" A jeſt is non-reſiſtance."

WHETHER this Vicar of Bray, the object of ſo much raillery, ever exiſted at all, or whether it was levelled at Vicars in general, I know not; certain it is, that in the reign of Charles the Second, Dr. Caſwell was Vicar of Bray, in Berkſhire, near fifty years, and that he was not conſidered as particularly accommodating

commodating in his principles to the changes of the times. His ſucceſſor, whoſe name was Brown, alſo held his vicarage fifty years; and he too was deemed ſteady in his principles; he died about thirty years ſince. Theſe facts may poſſibly do away the imputation of apoſtacy from the reſpectable names I here mention. The following ſtory has been in circulation relative to a Vicar of Bray, for the truth of which I cannot vouch:

" CHARLES the Second had been hunting
" in Windſor Foreſt, and in the chaſe was
" ſeparated from his attendants. In return-
" ing, he loſt his road, and came to Bray
" after it was dark, where, on enquiring
" for the Vicar's houſe, and being intro-
" duced, he told him that he was a traveller
" who had loſt his way, and having ſpent
" all his money, begged that he, would ren-
" der him aſſiſtance to proceed on his
" journey, and that he would ſoon repay
" him

" him with the greateſt honeſty: The " Vicar told him he was an impoſter, and " bade him go out of his houſe with great " rudeneſs. But the Curate (who was with " the Vicar) ſaid that he pitied the traveller, " and lent him a little money. The King " then diſcovered who he was, and upbraid- " ing the Vicar for his inhumanity, ſaid, " The Vicar of Bray ſhall be Vicar of Bray " ſtill, but the Curate ſhall be Canon of " Windſor;—and it is ſaid that the King " made his word good."

A LITTLE below Bray is a ſmall iſland, on which two handſome buildings were erected by a former Duke of Marlborough, about fifty years ſince. It now bears the appellation of Monkey Iſland, and is a pleaſant ſummer retreat, commanding a rich view of Windſor and the neighbouring country.

THIS part of England is conjectured by

by Camden to have been inhabited by the Bibroci, who ſubmitted themſelves to Cæſar, and obtained his protection, and with it a ſecurity in the poſſeſſion of one of the moſt beautiful ſpots in this kingdom.

Down Place, the ſeat of the late Duke of Argyle (now of Mr. Church), and the Willows, occupied by Mr. Ward, are charming ſituations, and enriched in the diſtance with the noble buildings of Windſor and Eton, in ſuch a point of view, as are no where elſe to be equalled.

Approaching nearer to Windſor, the Caſtle becomes a more diſtinct object for an artiſt; and where I to fix on a ſpot for a picture, it ſhould be at turning the bend of the River at Clewer, when by the evening ſun the parts are ſo beautifully diſcriminated, and ſo happily maſſed by the ſhadows, as to form a ſplendid object, in which

beauty

beauty and dignity are equally combined. Eton College would greatly enrich the ſcenery, as it ſtands unincumbered with buildings, and in ſuch a ſituation as to bring it within the reach of the eye in the general diſpoſition of objects. I regret that I cannot introduce an illuſtration of a ſcene ſo remarkably ſtriking, as a combination of the works of nature and art: the parts, I fear, would be ſo reduced as to render them trifling and unintelligible.

From every point in which the noble Caſtle of Windſor is viewed, it affords beauties peculiar and intereſting. The north view annexed has an ample ſhare of thoſe beauties, as it compriſes the moſt extenſive range of buildings, and thoſe beſt maſſed and adapted, from the ſize of this undertaking, to give ſome idea of the magnitude of the whole.



Windsor Castle.

Pub. for S. Ireland May 1. 1799.

The Grenville Library

The derivation of the name of this renowned place is from the Saxon, and means a winding ſhore. In the charter granted by Edward the Confeſſor to the monks of Weſtminſter, it is ſtiled Windleſhora. Struck with the beauties of the ſituation, William the Conqueror conceived it would be a fit retirement for the ſovereigns of this country, and ſoon made the Abbot believe the ſame; accordingly he bartered with him certain lands, &c. in Eſſex, and thereby annexed it to the Crown. The maſs of the preſent palace was erected nearly in the form in which it now ſtands, by Edward the Third, who was born here. The King appointed William of Wyckham, (afterwards Biſhop of Wincheſter), the architect and principal conductor of this great undertaking. This good man was very near being diſgraced by the ambiguity of a ſentence which he cauſed to be cut in one of the towers, viz. "This made "Wyckham," which in fact implied no more

than that this undertaking made the fortune of Wyckham.

ST. GEORGE's Chapel was likewiſe begun by Edward the Third, and dedicated to the Virgin Mary, and St. George of Cappadocia, but finiſhed nearly in its preſent ſtate by Edward the Fourth, whoſe monument was diſcovered on the 13th of March, 1789, by the workmen employed in repairing the Chapel. The ſurveyor and two of the canons attended on opening the vault, when the body appeared reduced to a ſkeleton, and incloſed in a leaden and wooden coffin, meaſuring ſix feet three inches in length. The head was reclined to the left or north ſide, without any appearance of cerecloth or wrapper, rings, or other inſignia. The bottom of the coffin was covered with a muddy liquor, about three inches deep, of a ſtrong ſaline taſte. This liquor was analized by Dr. James Lind, of Windſor. Near the body of the

the King was found a wooden coffin, ſuppoſed to have contained the body of his Queen, Elizabeth Woodwille, in which no remains appeared. She died about three years after the King, in confinement, at Bermondſey Abbey, and is ſuppoſed to have been ſecretly interred. On the walls of this vault were written in chalk, much reſembling the character of the times, "Edwardus "IV." with ſeveral names, probably thoſe of the workmen employed at the funeral. This Prince is reported to have been of remarkable perſonal ſtrength and beauty. If, like Sampſon, his ſtrength lay in his hair, he certainly had much to boaſt. It is ſomewhere mentioned, that the bits of the croſs ſhown in the various parts of Italy would have erected a ſuperb building; ſo of the hair of this Prince enough has been produced to have ſupplied Weſtminſter Hall with full bottoms for ages to come.

It is to be wiſhed that leſs black lead had been applied to the ſteel work of this King's monument near the altar of the chapel, which we are told was the work of that great artiſt Quintin Matſys. In the oppoſite aile was interred the rival of Edward, the unhappy Henry the Sixth. The following elegant lines of Pope on this King are worthy repetition:

" Let ſofteſt ſtrains ill-fated Henry mourn,
" And palms eternal flouriſh round his urn.
" Here o'er the Martyr-King, the marble weeps,
" And, faſt beſide him, once-fear'd Edward ſleeps:
" Whom not th' extended Albion could contain,
" From old Belirium to the northern main,
" The grave unites; where e'en the Great finds reſt,
" And blendid lie th' oppreſſor and th' oppreſt!"

The altar-piece of this Chapel, by Mr. Weſt, has infinite merit; but it has been remarked of the figure of Judas, that if that was his reſemblance, it would have done away

away all confidence, and conſequently have prevented his betraying his maſter.

Too much cannot be ſaid in commendation of the recent attention ſhewn to this place, which is perhaps one of the nobleſt Gothic ſtructures in the world; its late repairs and embelliſhments have coſt twenty thouſand pounds; and it is to be ſuppoſed that the wretched gateway leading to the North Weſt front of this Chapel will not long remain a reproach to the taſte of the preſent period of improvement. In the ſame ruinous and decayed ſtate remains the tomb-houſe, which was originally intended by Henry the Seventh as a mauſoleum for his family; but the Monarch ſoon after determining on the ſame deſign in Weſtminſter Abbey, this building was not completed. It afterwards came into the hands of Cardinal Wolſey, who obtained a grant of it from Henry the Eighth, intending it as a burying-place for himſelf;

himſelf; but his diſgrace intervening, it was left unfiniſhed. Nothing now remains but a kind of ſarcophagus in the center of this building, with ſome few ornaments, as left by the Cardinal, at whoſe diſgrace four thouſand two hundred and fifty ducats had been paid to the ſtatuary, and three hundred and eighty pounds ſterling to the gilder. Lord Bacon ſays, in his life of Henry the Eighth, "That this monument was ſo glori-" ous, that it far exceeded that of Henry the " Seventh in Weſtminſter Abbey." Charles the Second intended to convert it into a banquetting houſe; and for that purpoſe employed Verrio to decorate its ceiling, parts of which yet remain.

JAMES the Second wiſhed to gratify the Pope, by making it the reſidence of his Nuncio, at whoſe public entry, under the direction of that bigoted Prince, a ſplendid banquet was given in the Caſtle in 1687. By this ſplendid and public reception, the minds of the people

people became inflamed to ſuch a degree, that they attacked the building with all the fury of religious zeal, and left it nearly in the ſtate in which it now remains.

It has been rumoured by ſome, that it was the intention of his preſent Majeſty to fit it up as a Chapter-room for the order of the Garter; by others, that it was to be uſed as a burial-place for the royal family: any ſtate, but the preſent, would certainly be an alteration for the better.

The North terrace of this caſtle was greatly improved by Queen Elizabeth, who added to it many buildings, which are eaſily diſcernible by their ſtyle. She frequently graced this walk with her preſence about the hour of noon, and is ſaid to have directed the planting of that row of trees, near the Queen's Lodge, which bears her name. Not far from this place are the remains

remains of that venerable tree, known by the name of Herne's Oak, which has been immortalized by our divine bard, Shakſpeare, in his Merry Wives of Windſor. He makes Maſter Page thus deſcribe this tree and the keeper of the foreſt:

" There is an old tale goes, that Herne the hunter,
" Sometime a keeper here in Windſor Foreſt,
" Doth all the winter time, at ſtill midnight,
" Walk round about an oak with great ragg'd horns;
" And there he blaſts the tree, and takes the cattle;
" And makes milch-kine yield blood, and ſhakes a chain,
" In a moſt hideous and dreadful manner."

To this dread ſpot did thoſe merry wives beguile Sir John, to

" All encircle him about,
" And, fairy like, to pinch the unclean knight."

The ſtory of this Herne, who was keeper of the foreſt in the time of Elizabeth, runs thus:—That having committed ſome great offence, for which he feared to loſe his ſituation,



Hernes Oak. Windsor Park.

Pub. for Sr Ireland May 1.1799

The Grenville Library

tion, and fall into diſgrace, he was induced to hang himſelf on this tree. The credulity of the times eaſily worked on the minds of the ignorant to ſuppoſe that his ghoſt ſhould haunt the ſpot. This rendered it a fit ſcene of action for the purpoſe of our bard to terrify and expoſe the cowardice of the fat knight, who, in the following ſpeech, confirms the idea of Herne's ghoſt being ſuppoſed to walk near this place, and is even deſirous of imitating the keeper's voice:

" Divide me like a bribe-buck, each a haunch;
" I will keep my ſides to myſelf, my ſhoulders for the fellow of this walk,
" And my horns I bequeath your huſbands.
" Am I a woodman? ha! ſpeak I like Herne the hunter?"

SOME idea has prevailed of an intention to cut down this celebrated tree, which it is much to be wiſhed may not be true. The dell near it has in part been recently filled up.

As I do not know that any engraving has been made of this tree, the annexed view may poſſibly afford ſome pleaſure to the curious reader.

We ſhall now refer to the internal decorations of this noble palace. The pictures, of which little can be ſaid in their commendation, are few in number, and of thoſe few a very ſmall part can be ſelected as worthy the attention of the connoiſſeur. The cartoons of the divine Raphael, ſeven in number, ſo well known, and ſo deſervedly admired, are here preſerved with every degree of care; and it is to be regretted, that no apartment can be found of ſufficient dimenſions to contain the whole of this rare treaſure, the ineſtimable value of which was firſt pointed out by the great Rubens at Bruſſels, whither theſe pictures were ſent by Leo X. to be copied in tapeſtry under the direction of Van Orley and of Michael Coxis, two painters of great eminence

in

in their day. Theſe tapeſtries, with a great number of others from Julio Romano, &c. are exhibited annually in the Colonade before St. Peter's church at Rome on the day of Corpus Domini.

THESE invaluable works originally conſiſted of twelve pieces; but unfortunately four of the number have been totally deſtroyed by damps and neglect. The ſubjects of theſe four were the Adoration of the Magi, the Converſion of St. Paul, the Martyrdom of St. Etienne, and St. Paul preaching before Felix and Agrippa; the tapeſtries of which are in being; of the fifth a third part only remains, which is now in the poſſeſſion of William Hoare, Eſq. of Bath, R. A. The ſubject is the Murther of the Innocents. The pin-marks, which ſerved as guides in the tracing it for the tapeſtry, appear evidently in the picture.

UPON the communication by Rubens to Charles I. that theſe excellent works were highly deſerving a place in his noble collection, little perſuaſion was neceſſary to induce this accompliſhed Prince to become a purchaſer of them. At the ſale of this Monarch's effects after his death, they were purchaſed by the order of Cromwell, who commiſſioned one of his officers to bid for them, and publicly to declare the bidding as for his Highneſs. Fifty pounds was the ſum offered; and ſuch was the reſpect or dread of the name of the bidder, that they were inſtantly knocked down to him, though at the ſame time it was known, unlimited commiſſions were then in the room from France, Spain, Italy, &c.

MUCH praiſe is certainly due to the Protector in this tranſaction, who, although no connoiſſeur, was well aware of the high value of theſe works, which he afterwards, in a ſtate-

exigency,

exigency, pawned to the Dutch for fifty thouſand pounds. They remained in Holland till the Revolution, after which King William ordered them hither, when they were depoſited in a gallery built expreſsly for their reception at Hampton-Court.

To enter into a diſcuſſion of their great excellence, which every ſenſible mind muſt feel, or to point out their glaring defects, which every eye muſt ſee, would only be cenſuring the finite abilities of human nature, and confirming what daily experience gives proof of, that the moſt exalted talents are ever liable to the extreme of abſurdity, and errors the moſt palpable.

A LARGE picture by Rubens of ſleeping nymphs and prying ſatyrs, with animals by Snyders, is a work of great merit; the colouring of the females is in the beſt manner, but the contour of the figures is ſtrongly marked

marked with groſſneſs of idea and an affected ſwell of the muſcles much out of nature.

A WHOLE length of the Dutcheſs of Richmond, by Van Dyck; the portraits of Killigrew and Carew; and that of Henrietta Maria, in white ſatin drapery, are all works of infinite merit, particularly the latter, which is allowed to be the firſt production in portrait of that great maſter. The picture of the Miſers, in Queen Elizabeth's, or the Picture Gallery, by Quintin Matſys (called the Blackſmith) is an elaborate work of art; its merits, and the hiſtory of the painter, are ſo univerſally known, that it becomes needleſs to enlarge on the ſubject.

THE allegorical picture of Lady Digby trampling on Envy, &c. ſaid to be by Van Dyck, I do not conceive to be his; a ſmall picture on that ſubject, in the poſſeſſion of Mr. Hervey of Chigwell, being the only one ſuppoſed

ſuppoſed to have been ever painted by Van Dyck.

A REMARKABLE fine portrait, by Holbein, of the Duke of Norfolk, and one aſcribed to Rembrandt, of the celebrated Counteſs of Deſmond, who is ſaid to have reached her hundred and fiftieth year within a few days; and in her youth to have danced at Court with Richard III. whom ſhe declared to have been "as goodly a man as ever "her eyes beheld, not crooked, but very "properly ſhaped." In the ſame room a head by Parmegiano has great taſte in the deſign, but the colouring appears rather too red. There is extant an etching of this picture by his own hand.

OF two pictures painted by De Gennari in the King's Drawing-Room, the one Jupiter and Danae, and the other a ſleeping ſhepherd, the merit is by no means a ſufficient

cient apology for the groſs indelicacy with which the ſubjects have been treated. But it muſt be remembered, that they were painted in the licentious reign of Charles II. and by the expreſs order of that amorous Monarch; and being left as part of the furniture of the Caſtle, though a veil might perhaps have been thrown over them, have not yet been withdrawn from the public eye.

In an apartment not publicly ſhewn, is a curious and finely preſerved whole length portrait of that elegant and (for the age in which he lived) refined poet, the unfortunate Earl of Surrey. He is habited in ſcarlet drapery, hat and feather, and ſcarlet ſtockings and ſhocs. It is much in the ſtyle of Holbein, but certainly is not of his hand. An engraving of this picture would be a great acquiſition to the admirers of portrait.

It is with regret we obſerve, that in this ſtately

ſtately reſidence of the firſt Prince in Europe, under whom the arts have made ſo rapid a progreſs, ſo few works of excellence can be pointed out to attract the notice of foreigners, or of the connoiſſeur in our own country. We are, however, in ſome degree, compenſated for the want of ſpecimens of ancient art by the modern decorations from the pencil of Mr. Weſt, which give additional fame to the artiſt, and reflect honour on our munificent Sovereign; but we regret that the glorious period recorded in this work, the heroiſm and virtues of the renowned Edward III. one of the firſt Monarchs that has graced the throne of this realm, was not repreſented in St. George's Hall: that ſpacious apartment would have afforded ſufficient ſcope for the diſplay of the artiſt's ſuperior talents, and is better adapted to the grandeur of this undertaking, the hiſtorical correctneſs of which demands a brief deſcription.

THE work is compoſed of ſeven pictures; in the firſt of which Edward is oppoſed by Gondomar Du Foy (Philip's general) in croſſing the river Somme, near Abbeville, which he did not accompliſh till the next day, when he obtained the glorious victory on the plains of Creſſy; the event of this battle is recorded in a picture of larger ſize, where the Monarch appears tenderly embracing his ſon, who looks with attention on the ſlain King of Bohemia lying at his feet. The conduct of this brave old Monarch (who was almoſt blind with age) and likewiſe that of his noble attendants, was truly heroic. Fearing that victory was going adverſe to their wiſhes, they all agreed, leſt by any circumſtance they ſhould be ſeparated, to tie their horſes bridles together, and conquer or die, in which ſituation they were all found the next day, near the body of their brave old King, from whom the Prince of Wales achieved his armorial bearings, the plume of feathers,

and

and motto, " Ich dien, " " I ſerve," which is worn to this day.

In a ſmaller work is introduced the Surrender of Calais, where the Queen is interceding with the King to ſave the lives of the ſix burgeſſes, whoſe hands are tied behind them.

The companion to this picture is the Entertainment given by the King to his priſoners, in which the Lord Euſtace de Ribbemont, the gallant French officer who engaged the King, unknown, in ſingle combat, at the ſiege of Calais, is introduced. The King here makes himſelf known, and is in the act of nobly rewarding the valour of his enemy with a crown of pearls, and at the ſame inſtant granting him his liberty. This brave Frenchman was afterwards ſlain at the battle of Poictiers.

In the ſame ſmall ſize is the battle of

Nevil's Croſs, near Durham, where Queen Philippa, in the abſence of the King, takes the command of the troops, makes priſoner David King of Scotland, and is nobly victorious.

In a large picture, the ſame ſize with that of the Battle of Creſſy, is the Firſt Inſtallation of the Garter. The ſcene St. George's Chapel. The Biſhops of Wincheſter and Saliſbury are performing the ſervice; and the King, Queen, and Knights are all kneeling round the altar. In the gallery above appear the King's Children, the captive King of Scotland and Biſhop of St. Andrew's, French priſoners, and ſpectators. In the fore ground are two alms or poor knights kneeling, and behind them two foreign Ambaſſadors, the one a Knight of Gaſcony, the other of Normandy. Behind is Mr. Weſt's portrait, &c.

The decorations of this charming picture are the trophies taken at the battles of Creſſy and

and Nevil's Croſs, the arms of the firſt Knights of the Order of the Garter, &c. It is remarked that this glorious Monarch was poſſeſſed of trophies obtained in victory from moſt of the Princes in Europe.

THE ſeventh picture, which is of the ſame ſize with the former, is the battle of Poictiers, fought on the 19th of September, 1356, and glorioufly won by the Prince of Wales. King John, and his younger ſon Philip, as captives, are preſented to the Prince by Denis de Morbeque, a Knight of Artois, whoſe ſingular fortune in this adventure will apologize for the ſhort anecdote that follows.

"THIS Knight had in his youth committed
" a murder at St. Omer's, and was in conſe-
" quence forced to fly his native country.
" Taking refuge in England, he had entered
" the ſervice of Edward, under whom he had
" ſerved about five years, and being in this
engagement,

" engagement, near the King of France at " the moment of the defeat, boldly ruſhed " through the crowd, and addreſſing himſelf " to the King in good French, ſaid, " Sir, " yield your perſon." The King, looking on " him, ſaid, " To whom ſhall I yield? and " where is my couſin the Prince of Wales? " if I might ſee him, I would ſpeak with " him." Sir Denis anſwered, " Sir, he is not " hereabout; but if it pleaſe you to yield to " me, I ſhall bring you to him." " Why, " who are you?" ſaid the King. " Sir," " ſaid he, " I am Denis of Morbeque, a " knight of Artois; but I now ſerve the " King of England, becauſe I am baniſhed " the realm of France, and have forfeited " all I had there." Then the King gave " him his right gauntlet, ſaying, " Unto " you I yield myſelf."

THESE pictures have all infinite merit in their reſpective ſubjects. The drawing throughout

throughout is excellent, the colouring generally clear and animated, and the nice attention to the coſtumé and manners of that time reflect the higheſt honour on the hiſtorical knowledge of the painter; yet I muſt ſtill adhere to the remark already thrown out, that the ſubject would have had a better effect, and have more ſtrongly impreſſed the mind with the achievements of our glorious Monarch, had they been on a greater ſcale, and the figures large as life.

OVER the chimney is a picture by the ſame hand. The ſubject is the hiſtory of St. George, which hiſtory, though much talked of, is not generally known; I ſhall therefore quote the following ancient legend of that tutelar ſaint and patron of England, from the Legenda Aurea of William Caxton, who ſays,

" SAYNT GEORGE was knyghte born at

" Capadoſe.

" Capadoſe. On a tyme he came into the
" province of Libya, to a cyte whyche is
" ſay'd Sylene, and by this cyte was a ſtagne
" or ponde like a ſee, wherein was a dra-
" gon whych envenymed alle the contre, and
" the peple of the cyte gave to him every day
" two ſheep for to fede hym, and when the
" ſheep fayled, there was taken a man and a
" ſheep. Thenne was an ordaniunce made
" in the toune, that there ſhuld be taken the
" chyldren and yung peple of them of the
" towne, by lotte, and that it ſo happed the
" lotte fyl upon the Kynge's doughter,
" whereof the Kynge was ſory, and ſayde,
" for the love of Goddes, take golde and ſil-
" ver, and alle that I have, and let me have
" my doughter; and the peple ſayd, how,
" Syr, ye have made and ordayned the lawe,
" and our children be now deed, and now ye
" wold do the contrarye; your doughter
" ſhall be gyven, or elſe we ſhall brenne you
" and you holdes. When the Kynge ſaw

" he

" he might no more doo, he began to weepe,
" and returned to the peple, and demanded
" eight dayes reſpyte, and when the eight
" dayes were paſſed, thenn dyd the Kynge
" araye his doughter lyke as ſhe ſhould be
" wedded, and ledde hyr to the place where
" the dragon was. When ſhe was there,
" Saynt George paſſed by, and demaunded
" of the Ladye what ſhe made there; and
" ſhe ſayde, go ye your wayes, fayre young
" man, that ye periſh not alſo. The legend
" then relates, that the dragon appered, and
" Saynt George, upon his horſe, bore him-
" ſelf againſt the dragon, and ſmote hym
" with his ſpere, and threw hym to the
" ground, and delivered the Ladye to her
" fader, who was baptized, and all his peple.
" It ſays farther, that St. George was after-
" wards beheaded by order of the Emperour
" Dacien, in the year of our Lord 287, and
" concludes, This bleſſed holy martyr, Saynt
" George, is patrone of this roiaume of

 " Englonde,

" Englonde, and the crye of men of warre,
" in the worſhyp of whome is founded the
" noble Ordre of the Garter, and alſo a noble
" college in the caſtle of Wyndſore by
" Kynges of Englonde, in which college is
" the harte of Saynte George, whyche Sygyſ-
" munde, the Emperor of Almayne, brought
" and gave for a great and precious relique
" to K. Harrye the Fyfthe; and alſo the ſay'd
" Sygyſmunde was a broder of the ſay'd
" Garter, and alſo here is a peyce of hys
" hede; whyche college is nobly endowed
" to the honor and worſhyp of Almighty
" God, and his bleſſed martyr Saynt George."

SEC-



Eton College.

SECTION II.

ETON College, that noble ſeminary of learning, has every advantage from ſituation which the luxuriant hand of nature could beſtow. The valley in which it ſtands is healthy and fertile, and happily calculated for the reſidence of youth.

THE College was founded by that unfortunate Monarch Henry VI. in the year 1440, for the ſupport of a provoſt and ſeven fellows, and the education of ſeventy King's ſcholars, an appellation given to thoſe on the royal foundation.

THE chapel of this college is a fine Gothic ſtructure, and apparently by the ſame architect who deſigned that ſtately edifice King's College, Cambridge, whoſe name, Mr. Wal-

pole ſays, he is informed by his friend Mr. Baker of Cambridge (a well known antiquary), was Cloos, father of Nicholas Cloos, one of the firſt fellows of that college, and afterwards Biſhop of Litchfield; though Godwin ſays, "the Biſhop himſelf was "maſter of the King's works here, as far as "King Henry the Sixth's ſhare reacheth, "and contriver and deſigner of the whole." Whether father or ſon are entitled to that honour, little doubt remains, from the ſimilarity of taſte and diſpoſition of the parts, but that this chapel, with that of King's College, were both the works of the ſame architect. The modern introduction of the Doric order in the ſcreen of this chapel is ſo diſſimilar in ſtyle to the reſt of the building, as in point of taſte to be more than queſtionable, and will, no doubt, ere long be made to correſpond with the reſt of this juſtly eſteemed edifice.

THERE is much to be admired in the whole length marble ſtatue, by Bacon, of the founder of this college, at the weſt end of the chapel; but it wants muſcular expreſſion, and leaves the mind more impreſſed with the idea of a female than a male figure.

IN the Provoſt's apartments is a curious old portrait of Jane Shore, painted on pannel; it is ill drawn, and worſe coloured, and gives but a poor idea of the taſte for beauty of that day. The forehead is large, and the features ſmall and unintereſting. A thin veil, which is her only covering, is looſely thrown over her figure. The hair is of a yellowiſh auburn, approaching the tint of the ancient golden locks ſo often celebrated by our poets. I have little doubt of its originality, and the idea is greatly ſtrengthened by the probability of her confeſſor having been Provoſt of this college. Here is preſerved another copy of this celebrated

brated favourite, from a picture at Cambridge, in which the hair is enriched with jewels, and the neck with gold, which appears, from many circumſtances of ſimilarity, upon compariſon, to be a corroborating proof of the originality of the one before mentioned.

A CURIOUS portrait of Rouſe, ſpeaker of the Bare-bones Parliament, and of Sir Henry Wotton, are likewiſe preſerved in the Provoſt's apartments.

OF the old cuſtom celebrated every third year at Eton, under the name of the Montem, various conjectures have been formed; but its origin has not been aſcertained. It is ſaid by ſome to have been an old monkiſh inſtitution obſerved yearly for the purpoſes of raiſing money by the ſale of ſalt, abſolutions, or any other articles, to produce a fund that might enable the college to purchaſe

chaſe lands; and that the mount now called Salt Hill, with other land contiguous, is ſaid to belong to the college; which idea, upon the authority of the late Provoſt, Dr. Roberts, I can aſſert has no foundation in truth.

The cuſtom of having a proceſſion of the ſcholars can be clearly proved as far back as the reign of Queen Elizabeth, who, when ſhe viſited this college, deſired to ſee an account of all the ancient ceremonies obſerved there from its foundation to that period, in the number from which it appears, that an annual proceſſion of the ſcholars was one, and that at ſuch time verſes were repeated, and ſums of money were gathered from the public for a dinner, &c. to which fund was added the ſmall pittances extorted from the boys who were recently admitted, by thoſe of a longer ſtanding.

FORMERLY the dreſſes uſed in this proceſſion were obtained from the theaters, and ſalt was actually carried in the bags, the miſchievous application of which may probably of late times have been the cauſe of discontinuing this cuſtom; for when a countryman had given them money, if he aſked for any thing in return, the bearer uſually filled his mouth with ſalt, to the no ſmall entertainment of the ſurrounding multitude.

THE preſent mode of conducting the ceremony is of a more civilized nature: the fancy dreſſes of the ſalt-bearers, and what are called ſcouts, are of different coloured ſilk, and very expenſive; and the ſum gathered much more conſiderable.

THIS inſtitution has for ſome years been patronized by their Majeſties, who honour the ceremony with their preſence, and teſtify their

their approbation by the moſt convincing rhetoric, a purſe of fifty pounds each.

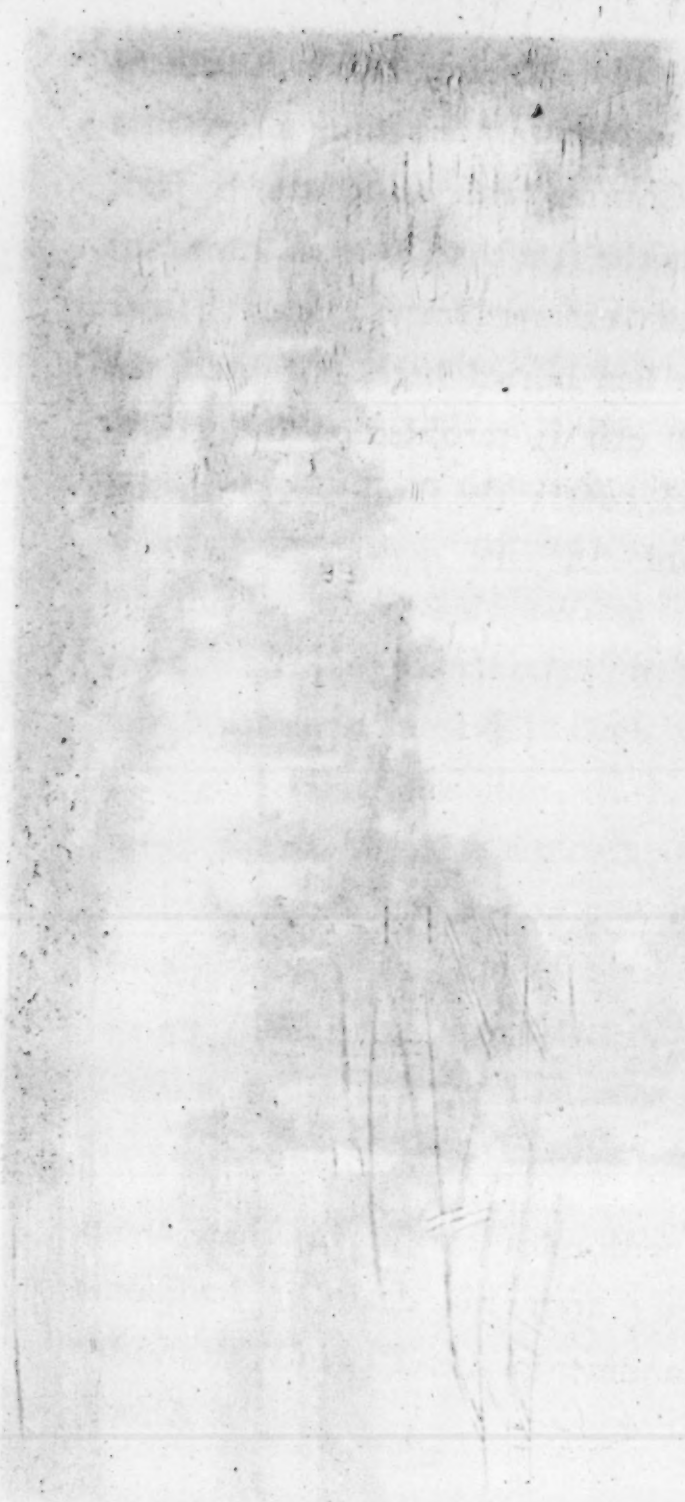
THE ſum collected at the laſt Montem (on Whit-Tueſday 1790) amounted to full five hundred pounds. This ſum was preſented to the captain or ſenior of the collegers at the time of the ceremony, ſoon after which he was removed to King's College, Cambridge, which college is ſupplied with its members from this ſeminary, in nearly the ſame manner as Chriſt Church and New-College Oxford, are ſupplied from Weſtminſter and Wincheſter. The motto on their flags at this proceſſion was "Pro more "et Monte."

FROM Eton the ſpire of Stoke, or Stoke Poges church, is diſcernible at a diſtance of about four miles. This place is not unworthy notice, from having been the reſidence of Gray the poet, where, in the manſion-

houſe of a Lady Cobham, it is well authenticated he wrote his beautiful Elegy in a Country Church-yard. But alas! poor Gray meets the fate that is often attendant on men of extraordinary talents; ſince though he lies buried here, not even the day of his exit is recorded on the grave-ſtone which covers the family-vault in this church-yard.



It is with pleaſure I add, that, about ſeven years after his death, a handſome mural monument was erected in Weſtminſter Abbey,





South East View of Datchet bridge.

Pub. for S. Ireland May 1. 1799.

Abbey, by two friends (whoſe names are honourably concealed), to which Mr. Maſon's muſe has added four elegant lines.

QUITTING Eton, the view of Windſor Caſtle (from what is called the Play Ground of the college) is truly magnificent. The remarkable curve of the river from Eton to Datchet, thoroughly juſtifies the ſuppoſed derivation of the name of Winding Shore, given to the adjacent town of Windſor, below which the river has a fall of near four feet.

ON the approach to Datchet, the wooden bridge* has a light appearance from every point of view; but is decaying ſo faſt as to become dangerous, though it has not been built above fifteen or ſixteen years. I am informed it is ſoon to be taken down, and one of ſtone to be erected in its ſtead.

* This bridge has ſince fallen down.

Below the bridge, the banks of the river are enriched with ſeveral handſome villas, which command a noble view of Windſor caſtle, &c.

In Ditton Park is the ſeat of Lord Beaulieu. This ancient manſion was built by Sir Ralph Winwood, ſecretary of ſtate to James I. on the ſite of that which was formerly occupied by Cardinal Wolſey. The old chimnies are yet ſtanding, which mark the ſtyle of building of that period. From Sir Ralph Winwood it came into the family of Montague, and by marriage to the preſent poſſeſſor. This park is famed for its ſtately old oaks, which ſtrongly indicate the antiquity of the place.

On the approach to Old Windſor, the Long Walk and Snow-hill in Windſor Park have a noble and pictureſque appearance. The contemplative mind cannot fail to ſym-

ſympathiſe with the elegant author of the Chaſe, and

" Tread with reſpectful awe
" Windſor's green glades, where Denham, tuneful bard,
" Charm'd once th' liſt'ning Dryads with his ſong,
" Sublimely ſweet.

THE excellence of this ſituation has called forth the ſuperior talents of this juſtly admired bard, Sir John Denham, whoſe poem on Cooper's Hill will never be neglected, while there exiſts taſte to reliſh nervous poetry, ſo happily combined with the elegancies of verſification and the truth of nature.

OF this univerſally admired work, ſome ill-natured doubts were thrown out in the laſt century, by Sir John Suckling, in his Seſſion of the Poets. He there intimates, that this poem was only the adopted child of Sir John Denham, but was in truth the legitimate iſſue of a country vicar, who

who received of the Knight forty pounds as a compenſation. Theſe inſinuations have not, however, obtained any credit with poſterity.

Of the houſe formerly our poet's, no traces are now remaining; but in the vicinity ſeveral elegant houſes have been erected, particularly Mr. Smith's, at Kingſwood Lodge, and Mrs. Harcourt's, whoſe reſidence is not far from the ſpot on which he lived.

In the neighbourhood of Old Windſor, the ſcenery is romantic and beautiful, particularly the ſituation of Lady Onſlow's, formerly Mr. Bateman's; and on the other ſide of the river, Ankerwycke, a ſeat lately occupied by Mr. Bouverie, which, though in a low ſituation, has its peculiar advantages in verdant proſpects acroſs the river.

The houſe was formerly a Benedictine nunnery,

nunnery, built by Sir Gilbert de Mountfichet, in the time of Henry II.

PASSING Ouſely, towards Egham, the high road on the border of the river affords a delightful ride through Runney Mead, a ſpot where, however powerfully the imagination may be ſtruck with the richneſs and beauty of the ſcenery, yet higher and much more important conſiderations muſt here impreſs themſelves upon every generous and feeling mind. If a Tory by principle, and a penſioner from neceſſity, could ſay,* "Whatever withdraws us from the power of our "ſenſes; whatever makes the paſt, the diſtant, or the future, predominate over the "preſent, advances us in the dignity of "thinking beings. Far from me, and from "my friends, be ſuch frigid philoſophy, as "may conduct us indifferent and unmoved

* Johnſon's Journey to the Weſtern Iſlands of Scotland, p. 346.

over

" over any ground which has been dignified " by wiſdom, bravery, or virtue. That man " is little to be envied, whoſe patriotiſm " would not gain force upon the plain of " Marathon!" Surely in others an ardour, not leſs than enthuſiaſtic, and a veneration, not leſs than religious, ought to follow the memory of thoſe conſtitutional patriots, the Barons, who, at the riſque of their lives and fortunes, here wreſted an aſſumed power out of the hands of a tyrant, and contributed to reſtore an equal and reaſonable influence in the ſtate to thoſe, from whom alone the title to govern can originate—THE PEOPLE.

IN Egham church are two ancient monuments erected to the family of Sir John Denham, father to the poet, who was a conſiderable benefactor to this pariſh.

THE late Mr. Garrick has paid a handſome tribute

tribute, in the following lines, to the memory of the Rev. Thomas Beighton, who was vicar of this place forty-five years, and died October 23d, 1771, at the age of ſeventy-one:

" Near half an age, with ev'ry good man's praiſe,
" Among his flock, the ſhepherd paſs'd his days;
" The friend, the comfort of the ſick and poor,
" Want never knock'd unheeded at his door.
" Oft' when his duty call'd, diſeaſe and pain
" Strove to confine him, but they ſtrove in vain.
" All mourn his death, his virtues long they try'd;
" They knew not how they lov'd him, till he dy'd.
" Peculiar bleſſings did his life attend,
" He had no foe, and Camden was his friend."

THE river a little below Egham is very ſhallow, and at a place contiguous, called Old Hive, is rendered famous for barbel fiſhing, and ſometimes fine carp are caught near this ſpot.

ON the bank of the river, at Colne ditch, not far from the church of Staines, ſtands

what is called London-Mark-Stone, which is the ancient boundary to the city juriſdiction on the Thames.

On a moulding round the upper part of the ſtone (which is much decayed by age) is inſcribed, " God preſerve the city of London. " A. D. 1280."

This ſtone was, during the mayoralty of Sir Watkin Lewes, in 1781, placed on a new pedeſtal, on which is inſcribed, that it was erected exactly over the ſpot where the old one formerly ſtood. From hence the juriſdiction of the city of London extends over the River Thames as low as Yendal, or Yenleet, to the eaſt, including part of the rivers Medway and Lee; and it is the office of the Lord Mayor's Deputy, the Water Bailiff, to ſearch for, and puniſh all perſons who infringe the laws made for the preſervation of the river and its fiſh. And in order to maintain

tain the rights and privileges of this river, the Lord Mayor holds a Court of Conſervancy eight times in the year, in the four counties of Middleſex, Surrey, Kent, and Eſſex, when a Jury for each is charged on oath to make inquiſition after all offences committed on the river, in order to proceed to judgment againſt thoſe who ſhall be found guilty.

The Grosvenor Library



East view of Staines-bridge.



The Granville Library



New Staines Bridge.

Pub. for S. Ireland May 1. 1799.

SECTION III.

FROM the Saxon word ſtana, or ſtone, the town of Staines moſt probably derived its appellation. To the notice of the curious, it has at preſent little to recommend it, except the tower of the church, which is reported to be a deſign of Inigo Jones, who reſided ſome time in this town.

ITS ancient decayed wooden bridge, I am happy to find, is ſhortly to be removed, and will receive an elegant ſubſtitute of ſtone, from a deſign of the ingenious Thomas Sandby, Eſq. R. A. whoſe plan has been already approved by the Commiſſioners.

To that gentleman, whoſe known urbanity renders him ever willing to communicate that ſcientific information, with which

which he is ſo amply ſtored, I am indebted for the annexed ſketch.



THE new bridge will ſtand nearly in the direction of the old one, and the building on the right, on the Surrey ſide, is intended (if approved of) as a ſpacious inn. The bridge conſiſts of three eliptical arches, the center ſixty feet in width, and the two ſide ones fifty-two each. The building of this bridge is contracted for at the ſum of eight thouſand four hundred pounds, and is intended to be begun early in the ſpring.

A LITTLE

A LITTLE below Staines bridge one branch of the Colne from Uxbridge falls into the Thames, and another at Hampton Court, which ſupplies the reſervoir of that palace with water.

PASSING down the river from Staines, St. Ann's Hill appears in a very conſpicuous and elevated ſituation, and often at a happy diſtance breaks upon the eye with the various and ſudden windings of the river, till we reach Laleham, famed for the entertainment it affords to the penſive lover of angling. The river at Laleham narrows conſiderably, and about the ſhallows or gulls, the water is beautifully tranſparent. Here the tranquillity of the ſcenery, the various objects perpetually gliding on the ſtream, and groupes of cattle from the adjacent meadows drinking and laving in the river, form a ſubject truly gratifying to the contemplative mind.

mind. From hence to Chertſey, the water has a fall of near four feet.

CHERTSEY bridge is a handſome plain ſtructure, begun in 1780, and finiſhed in 1785, under the direction of Mr. Payne, the architect, whoſe works make no inconſiderable figure on the river Thames. It conſiſts of ſeven arches, each formed of the ſegment of a circle. It is built of Purbeck ſtone, at an expence of about thirteen thouſand pounds, which falls equally upon the counties of Surrey and Middleſex. The original contract was for ſeven thouſand five hundred pounds.

THE town of Chertſey has formerly been a place of much conſequence, from its abbey, of which little now remains.

I AM favoured by Mr. Pembroke of Chertſey, with a curious drawing of the abbey, and map of the lands and river adjoining, which were



Chertsey bridge. &c.

The Cornwall Library

were annexed to ſome old deeds belonging to the church, to which he had lately occaſion to refer. They are in a book relating to the poſſeſſions of the monaſtery kept in the King's Remembrancer's office in the Exchequer, and were there depoſited at the period of the Diſſolution. It is preſumed the drawing was made about the reign of Henry IV. The ſketch annexed will give a good idea of the form of the abbey at that period.



In all probability this building received the remains of the ill-fated Henry VI. mentioned by Shakſpeare in his play of Richard III. where Lady Ann, attending the funeral, ſays,

" Come now tow'rds Chertſey with your holy load,
" Taken from Paul's to be interred there."

From Chertſey the body was afterwards removed to Windſor by Henry VII. in a private manner.

Out of the ruins of this abbey Sir Henry Carew, Maſter of the Buck-hounds to King Charles II. built a ſtately manſion.

On St. Ann's Hill is yet ſtanding part of an old ſtone wall, the remains of a chapel dedicated to St. Ann; and not far from it is Monk's Grove, near which has been diſcovered a well, to which medicinal qualities had formerly been aſcribed. It had been loſt for a conſiderable time; and ſince its

its reſtoration, has been occaſionally reſorted to under an opinion of its efficacy in many caſes.

Upon the ſubject of antiquity, it may not be out of place to mention a living antique who reſides in this neighbourhood—a farmer of the name of Wapſhote, whoſe anceſtors have lived on the ſpot ever ſince the time of Alfred, by whom the farm was granted to Reginald de Wapſhote, the anceſtor of the preſent family. In ſpite of the antiquity of this family, and amidſt the various changes and chances of human life, their fortunes have by no viciſſitude been elevated or depreſſed; perhaps a ſurer teſt of their integrity than if they had been ennobled.

Cowley, the poet, reſided in Chertſey ſome time, and died in what is called the Porch Houſe, which is now ſtanding, but has loſt its appendage, the porch. This

houſe is the property of Mr. Alderman Clark of London, by whom I am favoured with the drawing, as it ſtood a few years ſince, and of which this ſketch is a faithful copy.



The retreat of Cowley to this place was in conſequence of diſguſt; wearied out with the vexatious attendance upon a Court, and the fatigues of buſineſs. In this retreat he vainly flattered himſelf with meeting that ſolace and recreation which we are too apt to expect on withdrawing ourſelves from the world.

world. Even the long experience and good ſenſe of Cowley miſled him in this purſuit; every thing ſeems to have taken a contrary turn, and nothing but diſappointment and vexation followed. The nature of theſe diſappointments will be beſt explained in his own words, from a letter preſerved accidentally by Peck. It is addreſſed to Dr. Spratt, dated

" Chertſey, May 21, 1665.

" The firſt night that I came hither I " caught ſo great a cold, with a defluxion of " rheum, as made me keep my chamber ten " days. And, two after, had ſuch a bruiſe " on my ribs with a fall, that I am yet un- " able to move or turn myſelf in my bed. " This is my perſonal fortune here to begin " with. And, beſides, I can get no money " from my tenants, and have my meadows " eaten up every night by cattle put in by " my neighbours. What this ſignifies, or

" may

" may come to in time, God knows; if it
" be ominous, it can end in nothing leſs
" than hanging. Another misfortune has
" been, and ſtranger than all the reſt, that
" you have broke your word with me, and
" failed to come, even though you told Mr.
" Bois that you would. This is what they
" call Monſtri ſimili. I do hope to recover
" my late hurt ſo farre within five or ſix
" days (though it be uncertain yet whether
" I ſhall ever recover it) as to walk about
" again. And then, methinks, you and I
" and the Dean might be very merry upon
" S. Anne's Hill. You might very conve-
" niently come hither the way of Hampton
" Town, lying there one night. I write this
" in pain, and can ſay no more: Verbum
" ſapienti."

Dr. Johnson recommends this letter to the conſideration of all who may pant for ſolitude.

THE beautiful grounds of the Hon. Mr. Petre, adjoining to the town of Chertſey, ſtand on an elegant ſlope, inclining towards the bank of the river. The ſcenery is ſo happily choſen, as not only to afford infinite variety of proſpect, but likewiſe to admit the various diſplay of taſte and refinement in modern gardening, of which Woburn Farm ſtands an early ſpecimen.

THE proſpects of the adjacent country, rich in villages and fertile meadows, and diverſified with the beautiful winding of the river Thames, afford a view equal to any thing of the kind that this noble river preſents.

ADJOINING theſe grounds is Ham Farm, the ſeat of the Earl of Portmore, at Weybridge. It received its early improvement from the Counteſs of Dorcheſter, in the reign of James II. but has of late years been much neglected.

neglected. The park compriſes about five hundred acres. Its contiguity to the rivers Thames and Wey render it an eligible ſituation; the latter river runs through the grounds, in its courſe from Guildford, from whence it is navigable for veſſels of conſiderable burthen. A ſtream from what is called the Virginia Water, in Windſor park, likewiſe runs through the grounds, in its courſe from Mr. Petre's park. The rich and verdant terrace that terminates the grounds of Ham Farm towards the banks of the river, is much to be admired, at the extremity of which the ſwing bridge thrown acroſs the Wey, at its junction with the Thames, makes a truly pictureſque object.

NEAR this place, according to Camden, at Cowey Stakes, Cæſar paſſed the Thames (that being the only ſpot then fordable) and entered the territories of Caſſivelan.

ON

On the other ſide of the river the Britiſh troops had planted themſelves, and had fenced the bank with ſharp ſtakes, ſecurely driven into the ground, which the venerable Bede ſays "are ſeen to this day; and it "appears upon the view, that each of them "is as thick as a man's thigh; and that "being ſodder'd with lead, they ſtick in the "bottom of the river immoveable." Theſe ſtakes, which are of oak, are ſtill diſcernible, though from age they have loſt their former colour. The late Speaker, Arthur Onſlow, had a ſet of knife and fork handles made from them, which, when worked, were as black and as heavy as ebony.

By an eaſy bend of the river, we paſs the pleaſant village of Shepperton, the retreat of the contemplative angler, who patiently ſits whole days bending over the placid ſtream, to watch

——"The fond credulity
"Of filly fiſh, which, worldling-like, ſtill look
"Upon the bait, but never on the hook."

THE "Angler's Wiſh," an elegant compoſition of an amiable and ingenious character of the laſt age, is ſo apt to the preſent purpoſe, that I flatter myſelf a quotation from it will not be unacceptable to the admirer of this recreation.

" I in theſe flowery meads would be:
" Theſe cryſtal ſtreams ſhould ſolace me;
" To whoſe harmonious bubbling noiſe,
" I with my angle would rejoice:
" Sit here and ſee the turtle dove
" Court his chaſte mate to acts of love.

" Or, on that bank, feel the weſt wind
" Breathe health and plenty; pleaſe my mind,
" To ſee ſweet dew-drops kiſs theſe flow'rs,
" And then waſh'd off by April ſhow'rs:
" Here hear my Kenna ſing a ſong:
" There ſee a black-bird feed her young,

" Or a laverock build her neſt:
" Here give my weary ſpirits reſt,
" And raiſe my low-pitch'd thoughts above
" Earth, or what poor mortals love:
" Thus free from law-ſuits, and the noiſe
" Of Princes Courts, I would rejoice.

" Or

" Or with my Bryan * and a book,
" Loiter long days near Shawford brook;
" There ſit by him, and eat my meat,
" There ſee the ſun both riſe and ſet:
" There bid good morning to next day,
" There meditate my time away:
" And angle on, and beg to have
" A quiet paſſage to a welcome grave."

ISAAC WALTON, the author of the Complete Angler, from which this extract is made, and whoſe works lately paſſed through two editions, given by the late Sir John Hawkins, learnt his art upon the banks of our river.

ANGLING was his principal amuſement: and from the choice of our pleaſures (at leaſt as he inculcates, and the hiſtory of his life is a ſtrong confirmation of his doctrine) may not unreaſonably be deduced the character of our morals. In any period, and particularly in that age, he muſt be conſider-

* Said to be his favourite dog.

ed as an extraordinary man. Without birth or education, in the humble ſituation of a ſempſter or milliner, the purity of his morals, the ſimplicity of his manners, his various information and philanthropy, procured him acceſs to the moſt learned men of his time, amongſt whom his common appellation was that of "Honeſt Izaac."

His lives of many of the moſt eminent characters of his time, Biſhop Saunderſon, Dr. Donne, Sir Henry Wotton, Herbert, &c. are repreſented as one of the moſt favourite books of the late Dr. Johnſon, who ſays, * "That it was wonderful that he, who was "in a very low ſituation of life, ſhould have "been familiarly received by ſo many great "men, and that at a time when the ranks "of ſociety were kept more ſeparate than "they are now."

* Boſwell's Life of Dr. Johnſon, vol. i. p. 487.

He

He ſeems ſtill to retain, amongſt the higheſt characters of the preſent age for worth and learning, the ſame eſtimation which he formerly held; for there appears to have been a ſtrong inclination in one of our preſent prelates, * the Biſhop of Norwich, Dr. Horne, then Preſident of Magdalen College, Oxford, if not alſo at the ſame time in one of the preſent Judges of Scotland, † Sir David Dalrymple, Lord Hailes, to give an edition of his Lives; and it was the very earneſt wiſh of Dr. Johnſon, ‡ "that this "pious work (as he terms it) of preſerving "and elucidating the writings of an author "by whom he had been moſt pleaſingly "edified," ſhould be perfected by ſome worthy, reſpectable, and able hand. This digreſſion from the ſubject, will, I flatter my-

* Boſwell's Life of Dr. Johnſon, vol. i p. 437

† Ditto, p. 439.

‡ Ditto, p. 438.

ſelf,

ſelf, be palliated by the ardent wiſh I feel to be ranked amongſt the admirers of this excellent character, and, as he is ſtyled, "Common father of all anglers."

THE Thames here abounds with almoſt every different ſpecies of fiſh that is to be found in other Britiſh rivers, ſuch as perch, eels, roach, dace, bleak, barbel, &c. of the latter it is to be obſerved, they never are ſeen below London bridge, the others are found as low as the water continues freſh. The flounders are ſeldom found above Fulham, whither they are conveyed by the tide. Of the lamprey I have remarked in a former Section.

THE ſalmon appears in the river about the middle of February, and ſells at a very advanced price: its capture is prohibited from the 10th day of September to the 25th of January.

THE

THE ſhad, like the ſalmon, is a fiſh of paſſage; it appears about the beginning of June, but is held in little eſtimation; the uſual ſize is from four to five pounds, but it ſometimes is found of nearly twice that weight.

THE Terrace of Oatlands, on the oppoſite ſide the river, (now in the poſſeſſion of the Duke of York) is a ſuperb ornament to the banks of the Thames; but the houſe has nothing beyond ſituation to recommend it.

ONE object in theſe grounds ſhould not be unnoticed, although a ſpecies of building not always gratifying to the well informed mind. It is the Grotto, which, in that ſtyle, exceeds in taſte and elegance every thing I believe of the kind in the kingdom. It was conſtructed and finiſhed by three perſons, a father and his two ſons, whoſe lives, in the opinions of ſome, might have been devoted to objects of more utility,

utility, yet it certainly beſpeaks them to have poſſeſſed great ingenuity, and unceaſing application. This grotto is reported to have coſt near twelve thouſand pounds.



THERE was formerly a noble palace in this park, a good view of which is given in the back ground of a portrait of Ann of Denmark, Queen to James I. painted by Van Somers, in 1617. It is now in Kenſington palace. Little remains of this palace, but a gate, erected from a deſign of Inigo Jones, and which has been removed a ſmall diſtance from its original ſituation, and repaired, with the

The Gennadius Library



Walton-bridge. Surry

Pub. for S. Ireland May 1. 1799.

the addition of an inſcription by the Duke of Newcaſtle, its former poſſeſſor.

On St. George's Hill, in the neighbourhood of this park, are evident remains of a Roman encampment.

Walton bridge, from Oatlands, has a beautiful appearance. A ſpacious body of water formed beneath the terrace, is ſo happily managed as to appear to be the main river, which, from its windings in the neighbourhood, is concealed from the view.

The celebrated old bridge at Walton was built by the late Mr. Decker, for which he obtained an Act of Parliament in 1747, and in 1750 that handſome ſtructure was completed. The plan of this elegant bridge was by a Mr. White of Weybridge, though ſome other perſon has taken the merit of its deſign.

The happy conſtruction of this bridge was ſuch, that being compoſed of timbers tangent to a circle of a hundred feet in diameter, either of theſe falling into decay, might, with eaſe, be unſcrewed; and, with equal facility, receive a new ſubſtitute, without diſturbing the adjoining timbers.

Of this bridge, the ſketch prefixed will give a faint idea.



Such was its dangerous ſtate, that about four years ſince, it was judged expedient to take down a great part of it, when the centre arches of the preſent bridge, which are of brick, were rebuilt at an expence of two thouſand pounds, under the direction of the late Mr. Payne. This bridge is the property

perty of Mr. Sanders; and it muſt be confeſſed, that what it has gained in ſolidity and ſtrength, it has loſt in taſte and elegance.

WALTON is ſaid formerly to have joined the county of Middleſex, till, about three hundred years ſince, the old current of the Thames was changed by an inundation, and a church was deſtroyed by the waves. Here are ſtill ſome veſtiges of a Roman camp.

FROM Walton, the ſcenery of this gentle river is continually increaſing in beauty; and as we reach Sunbury, its banks are ſo highly enriched in villas, that the lines of an ancient poet may not unaptly apply to illuſtrate the ſcene;

" We ſaw ſo many woods and princely bow'rs,
" Sweet fields, brave palaces, and ſtately towr's,
" So many gardens dreſt with curious care,
" That Thames with royal Tiber may compare."

At Sunbury, the ſeat of the late Earl of

Pomfret makes no inconſiderable figure. It ſeems an epitome of part of the façade of Hampton Court, and has often borne the appellation of that palace in miniature.

In the neighbourhood of Hampton, the favourite retreat of our theatrical monarch, the late Mr. Garrick, is a handſome villa erected by him, which may not improperly be ſaid to have been dedicated to

" The feaſt of reaſon, and the flow of ſoul."

On the verdant lawn ſloping towards the Thames, ſtands a handſome pavilion, in which is placed a whole length ſtatue of our immortal Shakſpeare, * ſculptured in beautiful white marble, by the inimitable Roubilliac. The bard ſeems deep in contemplation, and,

" As imagination bodies forth
" The forms of things unknown,
" Turns them to ſhapes, and gives to airy nothing
" A local habitation and a name."

* Reported to have coſt three thouſand pounds

PART of the internal decorations of the houſe are from the pencil of that original and unrivalled genius, Hogarth, the ſcourge of vice and immorality, "Who held, as "'twere, the mirror up to Nature, to ſhew "Virtue her own feature, Scorn her own "image, and the very age and body of the "Time, his form and preſſure."

THE four election pictures by this maſter, the ſubjects of which are ſo well known, and their miſchievous conſequences ſo ſeverely felt in this country, as to need no farther comment, here preſent themſelves, in which, if nice diſcrimination of character, and juſt expreſſion of the human paſſions are ſought after, and allowed to be the firſt excellence in works of genuine ſatire, ſurely theſe from the pencil of our Hogarth muſt remain a laſting proof of his unrivalled excellence; nor is the mechanical part of theſe pictures leſs to be admired than the deſigns. The colouring

colouring is rich, and the figures are boldly and characteriſtically drawn.

By the ſame hand is likewiſe another work; which has, for its ſubject, the Examination of the Recruits before Shallow and Silence; this, though inferior to the former in merit, will yet evince to the world that the genius of the artiſt was only obſcured when copying the ideas of others, ſince even the brilliant imagination of Shakſpeare could lend no aid to the natural talent of Hogarth, who, to be admired, muſt always think and act for himſelf.

I cannot quit this manſion, without adverting to the rare talents of its former poſſeſſor, Mr. Garrick, who, as a living commentator on our immortal bard, ſtands unrivalled; but in this view, ſo inadequate and imperfect are the traces of human memory, and ſo ſoon, even if it were indelible,

indelible, in the general wreck of mortality, does this evidence paſs away, that even now there remain not very many witneſſes, whoſe grateful remembrance can, with any lively impreſſion, pay the due tribute to his varied and unequalled excellence; or to uſe the elegant language of a modern bard, who, deploring the tranſitory fate of ſuperior talents in the mimic art, ſays,

" The Actor only ſhrinks from Time's award,
" Feeble Tradition is his mem'ry's guard;
" By whoſe faint breath his merits muſt abide
" Unvouch'd by proof, to ſubſtance unally'd,
" Ev'n matchleſs Garrick's art to heav'n reſign'd,
" No fix'd effect, no model leaves behind."

SEC-





Hampton Court-bridge, &c.

Pub.for S. Ireland May 1.1799.

SECTION IV.

FROM Hampton, the approach to the bridge preſents a favourable aſſociation of objects for the pencil. The weſt end of the old building, formerly the banqueting houſe, breaks happily on the eye to complete the ſcene, and it is from that point of view only that this majeſtic pile can be introduced into the landſcape to advantage.

HAMPTON COURT bridge, which is of wood, has a light and pleaſing effect, and was finiſhed about twenty-five years ſince, under the direction of a Mr. White of Weybridge; the former bridge was ſo ill conſtructed as only to remain fit for uſe about thirteen or fourteen years.

VERY near the bridge, at what is called

Moleſey, the river Mole, from Dorking, falls into the Thames. The water is here very ſhallow in many places, being not more than twenty inches deep; but oppoſite the palace, in one ſpot, where the water-gallery formerly ſtood, it is near thirty feet.

The palace of Hampton Court, it is well known, was built by the princely Wolſey, whoſe munificence in the undertaking excited no ſmall degree of jealouſy and envy in his Sovereign; the wary Prelate therefore thought it wiſe to make a peace-offering of his riſing edifice; and in return, the King ſuffered him to reſide in his palace of Richmond.

The plan of this magnificent building, when thus abandoned by the Cardinal, was ſo extenſive, as to admit of two hundred and eighty beds, adorned with rich ſilk and gold hangings.

Of

Of the original ſplendour of this edifice there are few remains: the principal object to be admired is the ſpacious hall, formerly the banqueting room; its noble vaulted roof is in the beſt taſte of Gothic deſign, and fully impreſſes the mind with the general ſtyle of elegance in which it was originally finiſhed.

In this hall, a grand banquet, it is ſaid, was given by the Cardinal to his Sovereign, expreſſly for the purpoſe of introducing to his notice Ann Boleyn; but I conjecture that this report is without foundation, as the ſcene, with more probability, was at York-place, the then reſidence of the Cardinal, now Whitehall. Cavendiſh, who wrote the life of the Cardinal, in the time of Queen Mary, ſays, he was himſelf preſent at the banquet, and thus deſcribes it:

" Before the King, &c. began to dance,

 " they

" they requeſted leave to accompany the la-
" dies at mum-chance; leave being granted,
" then went the maſquers and firſt ſaluted
" all the dames, and then returned to the
" moſt worthieſt, and then opened the great
" cup of golde, filled with crownes and other
" pieces, to caſt at. Thus peruſing all the
" gentlewomen, of ſome they wonne, and to
" ſome they loſt; and having viewed all
" the ladies, they returned to the Cardinal,
" with great reverence, pouring down all
" their golde, which was above two hundred
" crowns. At all, quoth the Cardinal,
" and caſting the die, he wonne it, whereat
" was made great joy."

In the laſt reign, the ſtately hall at Hampton Court, was converted into a theatre, where the Queen intended two plays ſhould be performed weekly, while the court was held there; but Colly Cibber ſays, that only ſeven plays were performed in it after it was altered;

altered; one of which was for the entertainment of the Duke of Lorraine, afterwards Emperor of Germany.

For an elaborate deſcription of this magnificent palace, as it ſtood in the reign of Elizabeth, I refer the curious reader to the Itinerary of Hentzner, who, after enumerating the many elegancies it then contained, concludes with remarking, that "in ſhort, "all the walls of the palace ſhine with gold "and ſilver."

This ſcene of magnificence and pomp of former Kings became, at a later period, the priſon of the ill-fated monarch, Charles I. whoſe fortunes, when conſidering him as a Prince accompliſhed in the fine arts, we cannot but deplore; however, the pernicious examples before him, and hereditary leſſons, perhaps too readily imbibed, deſtined him to a rougher fate, than either in times leſs agitated,

agitated, or under other circumſtances, his elegant mind and milder manners ſhould ſeem to have merited.

Of the ancient ſplendour of Hampton Court, we have at preſent few remains: the apartments now ſtanding having been originally uſed as offices merely for domeſtic purpoſes, conſequently convey no idea of the magnificence of the times at which they were built. The old palace was taken down in 1690, to give place to the preſent elegant ſtructure, which was raiſed under the auſpices of King William, and under the ſkilful direction of Sir Chriſtopher Wren.

Before this building was begun, the Monarch ſuggeſted an idea of erecting one in the neighbourhood of Hampton, at the weſt end of the town, on an elevation about half a mile diſtant from the river—a ſituation certainly preferable in point of ſcenery to

to that of Hampton Court; but the length of time, which he was given to underſtand ſuch an undertaking would require in its completion, induced him to relinquiſh the deſign.

THE preſent palace was completed in about four years, and juſt before the death of Queen Mary, to whoſe taſte and ſuperior ſkill in the arts, it is but juſtice to ſay, from the authority of its architect, this building owes much of its elegance.

THE grand façade towards the garden extends three hundred and thirty feet, and that towards the Thames three hundred and twenty-eight. The portico and colonade, of duplicated pillars of the Ionic order, at the grand entrance, and indeed the general deſign of theſe elevations, are in a ſuperior ſtyle of magnificence.

THE want of height in the cloyſters under the apartments, is an error in taſte of which Sir Chriſtopher Wren ſtands exculpated, as they were executed in that manner, according to the King's expreſs deſire. In this palace are ſaid to be two thouſand apartments, which conſtitute in point of extent and convenience, one of the nobleſt ſtructures this country affords. On one ſide of the quadrangle, called the Fountain Court, is the apartment which was conſtructed for the reception of the cartoons of Raphael, and which, it muſt be confeſſed, was a preferable ſituation to that at preſent allotted to them at Windſor. The pictures, which are now placed in their ſtead, are ſo inferior in merit to thoſe excellent works that once graced this apartment, that they ſeem a mockery of the arts.

THE other pictures contained in this palace are in general of a ſuperior claſs, but

are

are too numerous to be particulariſed in this work.

THIS palace is ſupplied with water for domeſtic uſes by a pipe conveyed under the Thames, about half a mile above Kingſton Bridge, from a place called Coomb, which is four miles diſtant from Kingſton.

THIS water has the property of not furring any veſſel it is boiled in; turns all vegetables black, and is ſaid to poſſeſs many medicinal qualities.

QUITTING Hampton Court ſeveral elegant villas, in the vicinity of Thames Ditton, preſent themſelves to view, among which, Miſs Boyle's, formerly occupied by the Earl of Hertford, and that of Richard Joſeph Sullivan, Eſq. once in the poſſeſſion of Lady Digby, particularly claim attention; they have every requiſite, from their vici-

nity to the river, Hampton Court Park, and a charming ſurrounding country, to render their ſituation truly enviable.

SEC-

The Grenville Library



Kingston Surry.

Pub.d for S. Ireland May 1 1790.

SECTION V.

THE river ſcenery from Thames Ditton to Kingſton, receives a pleaſant addition from the contiguity of the road to its banks, parallel to which it runs a conſiderable length, affording a perpetual variety of objects highly gratifying.

THE old wooden bridge of Kingſton conſiſts of twenty arches; it was originally ſupported by a toll, but in 1567 was endowed with lands amounting to forty pounds per annum, for the repairs, &c. from which time the toll has been taken off.

KINGSTON was formerly the reſidence of ſeveral Saxon Kings, from which circumſtance it obtained its preſent name. The an-

cient appellation of this place was Mere-ford, from a ford over the river.

In this ancient town the famous Earl of Warwick, ſtyled the King-maker, is ſaid to have had his reſidence, at a houſe called Hircomb's Place. Kingſton was incorporated by King John, and ſent Members to Parliament as early as the reign of Edward the Second.

From this ancient burgh, which at preſent affords little gratification to the inquiſitive mind, we approach Teddington, formerly called Tide-ending Town, from the tide, as it is ſaid, having flowed ſo high, before the building of London Bridge; and at preſent its laſt gentle efforts are certainly felt here, though it is a diſtance of more than ſeventy miles from its mouth. I have reaſon to believe that few rivers in Europe carry their tide ſo high into the internal parts

of

of the country through which they paſs. What cauſes concur to produce this effect, is more than I ſhall attempt to explain; but its advantages in point of trade and navigation to the country, as well as the capital, are as obvious as they are reciprocal; and the circumſtance itſelf ſeems to have well juſtified the choice of the ſeat of empire, and fixing it in a place which had, of all others in the realm, the moſt ready and extenſive communication with its provinces.

The village of Twickenham next preſents itſelf to view, a ſpot long famed for the reſidence of taſte and elegance, and where the muſes have delighted to ſtray, on the banks of our gentle river.

At the entrance of this charming village the Honourable Mr. Walpole has given us a ſpecimen of his taſte, in a happy ſelection of Gothic parts and ornaments, in his villa at Straw-

Strawberry Hill. This cabinet, rich in the choiceſt works of the fine arts, is, from the politeneſs of its owner, well known to the amateurs in this country, who find eaſy acceſs on proper application.

THOUGH the ſubject has not novelty to recommend it, yet I cannot refrain from mentioning this rich appendage to the banks of the Thames. The annexed view is taken from a drawing made about ſix years ſince by my late ingenious and much eſteemed friend, Francis Groſe Eſq.

IN the conſtruction of the various apartments in this houſe, Mr. Walpole has judiciouſly availed himſelf of the beſt ſpecimens of the ancient Gothic now remaining, particularly thoſe from the gate of the choir at Rouen, the tomb of Archbiſhop Wareham at Canterbury, St. George's Chapel, &c.

IN



Strawberry hill.

Pub.d for S. Ireland May 1.1799.



In the Holbein Chamber are ſome good copies of the works of that maſter by Vertue, from the originals in the late Queen Caroline's cloſet at Kenſington: likewiſe an excellent original drawing in pen and ink by Holbein, a deſign intended for a chimney-piece in an apartment in one of the palaces of Henry VIII.

In the grand gallery are many good portraits by Reubens, Van Dyck, Janſens, Lilly, &c. A fine ſpecimen of the ſtate of the art of painting in the fifteenth century, by Mabuſe, the ſubject of which is the marriage of Henry VII. will be highly gratifying to the antiquary and admirer of the early productions of art in painting.

The celebrated eagle, from the Baths of Caracalla, brought over by Sir Horace Mann, and of which Mr. Walpole has cauſed an engraving

engraving to be made, happily adorns the centre of this elegant gallery, and need only to be ſeen to be admired.

In this repoſitory of elegance are ſome of the beſt ſpecimens in miniature painting, by the Olivers, Cooper, &c. that are extant.

A valuable treaſure, by the former maſter, is here preſerved, which Mr. Walpole informs us, was diſcovered in an old houſe in Wales, belonging to a deſcendant of Sir Kenelm Digby; it was there ſo carefully encloſed in ebony and ivory caſes, as to remain at preſent as perfect as if juſt painted.

Of this deſcendant Mr. Walpole made the purchaſe. The moſt beautiful part of which is the portrait of Sir Kenelm and his lady, and two ſons, from Van Dyck, which muſt be certainly deemed the chef d'œuvre of this charming painter.

A small

A SMALL bell in ſilver, in the cabinet, from the hand of Benvenuto Celini, is ſo exquiſitely ſculptured, as to rival every production of the kind I remember to have ſeen.

THE ebony furniture, cabinet, and curious relics of antiquity, particularly the Abbot of Glaſtonbury's chair, are all well adapted to the Gothic of the houſe.

CARDINAL WOLSEY's hat, here preſerved, is ſaid, by the inſcription within the crown, to have been found in the great wardrobe by Biſhop Burnet, and ſeems to carry with it genuine marks of originality; at preſent, however, the rage for Cardinal's hats ſeems ſo much on the decline, that it may perhaps be difficult ere long to find heads to fit them, and thoſe of the whole conclave may poſſibly ſhare the fate of Wolſey's, in being conſigned to the wardrobes of the curious only.

THE library is ſpacious and well-ſtored with the choiceſt productions of the graphic art, particularly in portraits, in which this collection is allowed to ſtand pre-eminent.

AMIDST the many elegancies in this retreat, the modern decorations from the pencil of Lady Di. Beauclerc, particularly thoſe from the ſubject of Mr. Walpole's tragedy of the Myſterious Mother, are works that do honor to the age, and on which it is impoſſible to ſpeak of the fair artiſt, without ſeeming to be laviſh in adulation. The noble owner has built an apartment for their reception.

IN the adjoining village of Twickenham, the once-famed reſidence of the immortal Pope is conſpicuouſly marked towards the river, by two of the nobleſt drooping willows, perhaps, in the kingdom, which are reported to have been planted by his hand.

In the year 1715, this admired ſpot was purchaſed by Pope; and here, in the various improvements and additions he was perpetually making, he ſeems to have found a principal ſolace and amuſement in his declining years.

Whatever may be the preſent opinion of this place, from the altered, and perhaps improved taſte of the times, his own high opinion of the excellencies of his grotto and garden will be beſt underſtood from his letter written to Edward Blount, Eſq. dated June 2, 1725.

Since the death of our poet, theſe grounds have been conſiderably enlarged, and the houſe has received the addition of two ſide wings, from its late poſſeſſor Sir William Stanhope, who purchaſed it at the death of Pope; notwithſtanding theſe additions and alterations, the ſimplicity of the building

is ſtill the ſame, and it may yet be called Pope's.

" Grateful poſterity, from age to age,
" With pious hand the ruin ſhall repair;—
" Some good old man, to each enquiring ſage
" Pointing the place, ſhall cry—The Bard liv'd there."

THE houſe, &c. is now in the poſſeſſion of the Right Honourable Welbore Ellis, Eſq; ſince created Lord Mendip, who married the daughter of the late Sir William Stanhope.

THE remains of this charming Ethic writer were depoſited, agreeable to his own requeſt, in the pariſh church of Twickenhem, in the ſame vault with thoſe of his parents, to whoſe memory he had erected a plain monument, with a Latin inſcription written by himſelf.

A MORE elegant monument in marble was erected for our poet in the ſame gallery, by his

his friend and editor Dr. Warburton, late Biſhop of Glouceſter, on which is affixed, in a medallion, a head of Pope, and a ſhort memorial in Latin.

On the outſide of this church, at the eaſt end, is a ſmall tablet, erected by the poet to the memory of Mary Beach, a faithful old ſervant, who nurſed him in his infancy, and conſtantly attended him for thirty-eight years. She died November 5, 1725, at the age of ſeventy-eight.

The many beautiful ſeats in this ſelected ſpot, that are and have been occupied by perſons of the moſt eminent talents in this country, give the beſt teſtimonies of the ſuperior excellence of its ſituation, where every feature that is elegant and admirable in landſcape is combined.

From hence the eye wandering to the oppoſite

poſite banks of this beauteous " Vale of " Thames" is gratified with the rich and ſhadowy walks of Ham and Peterſham, formerly the retreat of the once lovely Queenſbury and her favourite Gay. Here, in the midſt of this rich and embowered ſcene, ſtands the villa built by the late Earl of Harrington, from a deſign of the great Lord Burlington, which by his warmeſt advocates, muſt be allowed to want that taſte and architectural knowledge for which he is ſo juſtly admired.

THIS houſe was erected on the ſite of one formerly built by the Earl of Rocheſter, Lord High Treaſurer to King James II. which was deſtroyed by fire, and with it were conſumed the library and valuable manuſcripts of the firſt Earl of Clarendon, author of the Hiſtory of the Rebellion.

THE noble aſcent of Richmond Hill cluſ-

tered

tered with elegant villas, and contraſted by the rich and verdant meadows of Twickenham, are happily combined by the elegant bridge of Richmond, and form a ſcene highly luxuriant and gratifying to the eye.

AMONGST many other perſons of rare and extraordinary talents, who have ſelected this charming ſcenery as a retreat from the buſtle of the world, the name of Thomſon, author of the Seaſons, &c. who reſided here a conſiderable time, ſurely demands the "tribute "of a paſſing ſigh." He lies buried in the pariſh church, under a plain grave-ſtone without any inſcription.

HIS death was occaſioned by a cold caught in a boat on the river Thames, after being heated with a walk, in the ſummer of 1748.

ON the death of this good man and excellent poet, few indeed were the exertions of the

the poetic muſe; amongſt thoſe few his friend Collins has deplored his death with ſuch ſincerity, and unaffected elegance, as to need no apology for the introduction of the following ſtanzas.

" In yonder grave a Druid lies
" Where ſlowly winds the ſtealing wave!
" The year's beſt ſweets ſhall duteous riſe,
" To deck its poet's ſylvan grave!

" In yon deep bed of whiſp'ring reeds,
" His airy harp ſhall now be laid,
" That he, whoſe heart in ſorrow bleeds,
" May love thro' life the ſoothing ſhade.

" Remembrance oft ſhall haunt the ſhore,
" When Thames in Summer wreaths is dreſt,
" And oft ſuſpend the daſhing oar,
" To bid his gentle ſpirit reſt!

" And oft, as Eaſe and Health retire
" To breezy lawn, or foreſt deep,
" The friend ſhall view yon whitening ſpire,*
" And 'mid the varied landſcape weep."

* Richmond ſpire.

THE

THE affection of this friend was ſuch as to induce him to quit Richmond immediately on the death of Thomſon.

I CANNOT paſs this neighbourhood without noticing the adjoining village of Roehampton, where, in the manſion of the Earl of Beſborough, whoſe taſte is as diſtinguiſhed as his polite attention to the ſtranger, the amateur will be gratified with a ſmall, but elegant ſelection of the beſt works in the art of painting.



The Grenville Library



Richmond Bridge.

Pub. for S. Ireland May 1. 1799

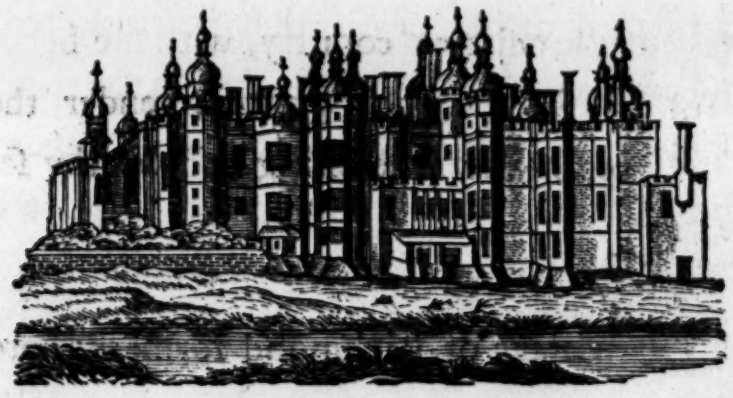
SECTION VI.

THE charming village of Richmond, from the ſingular beauty of its ſituation, has not improperly been termed the Freſcati of England. It received the addition of the preſent elegant ſtone bridge from a deſign of the late Mr. James Payne. The arches are ſemicircular, and the ſtructure taken altogether is not inferior to the firſt work of the kind on this river.

THE annexed view was taken below the bridge, where the rich and variegated ſcenery of the adjacent country, with the beautiful hill in the back ground, render the landſcape highly intereſting and worthy ſelection.

THE village of Richmond formerly bore

the name of Shene, which in the Saxon tongue ſignifies bright or ſhining, an appellation it loſt in 1501, when Henry VII. built a new palace here on the ſite of the old one, and beſtowed on it its preſent name, from that of his own earldom, before he obtained the crown. The palace was ſcarcely finiſhed, when Henry ended his days here. It likewiſe received the laſt breath of his renowned grand-daughter Queen Elizabeth. As this palace was deſtroyed in the civil wars, and no trace of it now remains, I have ſubjoined a ſketch of it from a very ſcarce print, by Hollar, in my poſſeſſion, as it ſtood in the time of Charles I. the engraving was made in 1638.



On

On part of the ſite on which this palace ſtood, the Duke of Queenſbury's houſe was erected.

Richmond has been long famed for the reſidence of our Monarchs. Here died the valiant Edward III. of grief, as it is ſaid, for the loſs of his warlike ſon, whoſe death, according to Camden, "was ſuch an afflic-" tion to him, and to all England, as was " not to be conquered by the ordinary me-" thods of conſolation." The Monarch did not ſurvive his ſon twelve months. Here alſo died Ann wife to Richard II. who firſt taught our fair country-women the preſent mode of riding on horſeback: Richard was ſo affected at her death, that he neglected, and even avoided the houſe; but in the reign of Henry V. it received conſiderable repairs and additions, and continued in a perfect ſtate till deſtroyed by fire in the the reign of Henry VII.

THE additions and improvements made to the grounds at Richmond by his preſent Majeſty, are ſuch as reflect honour on the judgement of the ſovereign, and are ſuch as the peculiar elegance of the ſituation demanded from the hand of regal taſte and magnificence.

THE center part of the lodge in Richmond Park, which is of Portland ſtone, was built in the late reign from a deſign of Meſſrs. Morris and Wright, and intended as a retreat for his Majeſty, and the royal family, after taking the diverſion of hunting in the park. The wings, which are of brick, have been ſince added by her Royal Highneſs the late Princeſs Amelia, when ranger of that park, but I believe have never been completed.

OF the many ſtriking objects that preſent themſelves from the Terrace, Syon Houſe appears

appears the moſt conſpicuous; and from hence it is ſeen to moſt advantage, as its happy diſtance in this point of view renders it more pictureſque than on a nearer approach.

It was formerly a convent, founded by Henry V. in 1414, for ſixty virgins of the order of St. Bridget of Zion, thirteen prieſts, four deacons, and eight lay-brothers; each ſex to live in ſeparate convents, and not to be allowed to come out, except by the Pope's ſpecial licence.

By a letter, however, addreſſed from this convent to Thomas Lord Cromwell, from one Richard Layton, who ſtyles himſelf his "aſſured poor prieſt," we find him "certifyinge the incontynenſe of the nunnes at "Syon with the friores," without the ſanction of his holineſſe's licence; and that "one Buſhope would have perſuaded one of

"his

" his brederen a ſmithe, to have made a keaye
" for the doare, to have in the night time
" received in wenches for him, and his fel-
" lowes, and ſpecially a wyffe of Uxbridge,
" now dwelling not far from the old Lady
" Derby, nigh Uxbridge, which wyffe his old
" cuſtomer hath byne many times here at
" the grates, communying with the ſayd,
" and he was deſirous to have her convoyed
" in to him. The ſaid Buſhope alſo per-
" ſuaded a nunne, to whom he was con-
" feſſor, ad libidinem corporis perimplend."

WHETHER from theſe enormities, or from the partialities of this convent to the avowed enemy of the Sovereign, the Maid of Kent, does not appear; but it is certain that the King made this monaſtery the firſt object of his reſentment, at the diſſolution in 1537, previous to which, he cauſed Richard Reynolds, a Brigettin monk, of Syon Houſe, and an eminent doctor in divinity, to be tried

tried for oppoſing his will, in the article of ſupremacy: and for which oppoſition he was hanged at Tyburn on the 4th of May, 1535.

At the diſſolution the revenues of this religious houſe amounted to one thouſand nine hundred and forty-four pounds eleven ſhillings and eight pence farthing, per annum: after which period the abbeſs, nuns, layſiſters, &c. to the number of ſeventy-three, were all penſioned during their lives; and as a matter of information to the curious, I relate, that the laſt abbeſs of Syon Monaſtery was interred in Denham church, near Uxbridge, and on her grave-ſtone is inſcribed as follows:

" Of youre charite pray for the ſoule of
" dame Agnes Jordan, ſometyme Abbas of
" the monaſterye of Syon, whiche departed
" this lyfe the xxix day of January, in the
" yere of o^{r} Lord God MV^{c}XLVI. on whos

" ſoule IHU have m'cy, Amen." Some fragments of pious ſentences in Latin appear around the figure. The coats of arms are torn off.

In Iſleworth Church, in the neigbourhood of Syon, another religious female of this convent was interred, on whoſe grave-ſtone is inlaid a ſmall braſs plate, with an engraved figure of a nun, and under it this inſcription.

" Here lyeth the body of Margaret Dely,
" a ſyſter profeſſed, in Syon, who deceaſed
" the VII. of October, Ao 1561, on whoſe
" ſoule Jhu have m'cy."

I am favoured with theſe inſcriptions by the Rev. Mr. Brand, who has preſerved the off-tracts in his valuable collection of portraits.

After the diſſolution this houſe was granted

granted to the Protector, the Duke of Somerſet, who built out of the ruins a palace, which now remains on the ſame ſpot where the church belonging to the monaſtery formerly ſtood.

After the fall of the Protector, it was obtained by Percy ninth Earl of Northumberland, from whom it deſcended to the preſent illuſtrious poſſeſſor.

In 1646 the Dukes of York and Gloceſter, and the Princeſs Elizabeth, were ſent hither by an order of Parliament, and were ſo well treated, by the Earl and Counteſs of Northumberland, that the unfortunate father, on viſiting them the next year, thought it no ſmall alleviation to his misfortunes, to ſee them thus happy in their confinement.

This extenſive manſion received its laſt alteration in 1632, from the hand of Inigo

 Jones,

Jones, who new-faced the inner-court, materially altered the apartments, and finiſhed the great hall in nearly the ſtate in which it appears at preſent.

The entrance to the veſtibule from the hall by a noble flight of marble ſteps, is in a great ſtile of deſign. The grand gallery in this building, although in ſome reſpect deſerving notice, is yet for want of height ſo conſpicuouſly defective as to deſtroy the general effect. The gardens, which were originally planned by the Protector, agreeable to the dark and myſterious reſerve of the times, have within a few years been modernized by the late Duke, and nature has been ſuffered to diſplay herſelf in all her wonted pride of ſimplicity and unaffected negligence.

The elegant gateway and open colonade at the grand entrance on the Weſtern Road, from

from a deſign of Mr. Adam (erected in compliment to the King of Denmark, at the time the late Duke gave a magnificent ball and entertainment) is truly elegant, and does credit to its architect; but it is elegance apparently ill-applied, when we conſider the antiquity and ſtyle of the building to which it leads.

OSTERLEY HOUSE, in this neighbourhood, has a double claim to notice in this work, as having been part of the demeſne appurtenant to Syon, and having alſo been after the diſſolution, granted by the crown to the Protector Somerſet. Upon his attainder it was given, with the manor of Heſton, by Queen Elizabeth, to Sir Thomas Greſham, who erected on the ſite a noble manſion, and from whom, through ſeveral owners, it paſſed to the family of Child, in the beginning of the preſent century.

In the number of thoſe who held it, before it paſſed into this family, (towards the cloſe of the laſt century) there was one, whoſe name had ſo much notoriety, that I cannot forbear to mention it; this was the ſon of the famous Praiſe-God Barbone, a Nicholas Barbone, doctor of phyſic, who held theſe premiſes, till they were ſo deeply mortgaged, as to oblige him to alienate them.

The preſent houſe was built and ornamented by the late Robert Child, Eſq. under the direction of Mr. Adam. The architectural deſign, as well as the internal decoration of the building, has ſhewn a taſte and air of grandeur, that does honour to its owner. The apartments are ſplendid in ornaments, conſiſting of the richeſt hangings of ſilk, velvet, and gobelin tapeſtry, elegant ſculptured marbles, and highly enriched entablatures in moſaic work, &c. The well-choſen collection of pictures, by the firſt maſ-

ters,

ters, muſt likewiſe evince to the foreigner, who viſits this manſion of taſte, that the fruits of commerce in this country, yield ample means to vie with the firſt-rate ſplendor of nobility.

At Old Brentford the Brane, or Brent, a brook riſing at Finchley Common, and paſſing through the weſt part of the town, unites itſelf with the Thames, which is in this ſpot ſo ſhallow at ebb-tide, as not to be above three feet deep.

Brentford gave the title of Earl in the twentieth of Charles I. to Patrick Ruthen Earl of Forth, in Scotland, who, for his valiant ſervices in the King's party, was made general of his army. Before it was new-paved, this place was remarked as being the worſt public road, near the capital, for carriages, in the kingdom. Under theſe circumſtances, it ſeems a little extraordinary, that

it

it ſhould have received the commendation, which it is well known frequently to have had, from the mouth of one who had undoubtedly the means of making the compariſon, " Dat he liked to ride dro' Brentford, " it waſh ſo like Hawnoverſh."

KEW GARDENS, though not very large, form a principal ornament to the banks of the river Thames, and I underſtand it is to the taſte and good ſenſe of the late Earl Bathurſt, under the auſpices of Queen Caroline, and the later improvements and additions under the direction and botanical ſkill of the Earl of Bute, that we ſee a flat and barren ſoil, without either wood or water, riſing at once into a ſtate of elegant cultivation, and vieing with the choiceſt productions of nature.

THE various temples, moſques, pagodas, &c. are not, perhaps, altogether conſiſtent with the preſent mode of decoration in gardening,

gardening, but they were ſuited to the taſte of the times, and were at leaſt the means of circulating immenſe ſums, and giving employment to many induſtrious artificers.

THE river from Hampton, and in this neighbourhood, is amply enriched with that noble water-fowl the ſwan, whoſe round and beautiful form, when ſailing along the ſtream, has not, perhaps, in the works of nature, its equal; yet, when out of its favourite element, no bird makes a more inelegant figure, ſtretching out its neck with an air ſingularly unmeaning, and with all its motions equally awkward and ungraceful.

THIS bird has long been rendered domeſtic, and is as delicate in its food, as in its proper point of view it is in form elegant: corn, bread, or herbs growing in the water, and ſeeds or roots found near its margin, are its conſtant diet.

THE ſwan is remarked for its longevity; ſome naturaliſts have aſſerted that it lives to the age of three hundred years, and to ſupport the aſſertion draw their inference from its ſlow approaches to maturity, it being two months hatching, and a year growing to its proper ſize. Though the ſwan may remain longer in the ſhell than any other bird we know, yet two months is by no means proportionate to its extraordinary longevity; I think the firm and hard texture of the fleſh of an old ſwan, is a much more convincing argument.

THE gooſe, it is obſerved, has been known to live to an hundred years, but the Michaelmas-day feſtivities, ſince the period of good Queen Beſs, have put the proof of the aſſertion totally out of the queſtion.

THE ſwan was by the ancients conſecrated to Apollo, from the belief of its ſinging

ſinging melodiouſly when near expiring. In aid of this opinion Pandaſius affirms, that he had often heard ſwans ſweetly ſinging in the lake of Mantua, as he was rowed up and down in a boat; and Aldrovandus the Bologneſe, who died ſo late as the beginning of the ſeventeenth century, and who was perhaps one of the moſt inquiſitive men in the world, in reſpect to natural hiſtory (though perhaps with more credulity than belongs to this ſceptic age) ſays, that even in other times, and on other occaſions, he is aſſured, beyond all doubt, that " nothing was more common " in England than to hear ſwans ſing; that " they were bred in great numbers in the ſea " near London; and that every fleet of ſhips " that returned from their voyages from diſ- " tant countries, were met by ſwans that " came joyfully out to welcome their return, " and ſalute them with a loud and chearful " ſinging."

Of the melodious faculty of this bird, as we have no teſtimony ancient or modern that can be relied on, we muſt leave him with that ſhare of fame which his beautiful and elegant form has acquired. The ſwan has ever been held in great eſteem in England, and by an act of Edward IV. none except the ſon of a King was permitted to keep one, unleſs poſſeſſed of five marks a year; and by a ſubſequent act, taking their eggs, in like manner as thoſe of the hawk, was puniſhed with impriſonment, for a year and a day, and a fine at the King's will.

In Coke's Reports, part vii. in the caſe of ſwans it is remarked, " that he who ſtealeth " a ſwan in an open and common river, law- " fully marked, the ſame ſwan ſhall be hung " in a houſe by the beak, and he who ſtole " it ſhall, in recompence thereof, give to " the owner ſo much wheat as may cover " all the ſwan, by putting and turning the

" wheat

" wheat upon the head of the ſwan, until the
" head of the ſwan be covered with wheat."

THE chief reaſon for making the ſtealing of ſwans thus penal, is ſaid to be from the conjecture, that if either of a pair die, or be otherwiſe ſeparated from its mate, the other does not long ſurvive. Great attention is paid at preſent to the preſervation of this noble bird. At ſtated periods of the year, the King's barge and thoſe of two of the city companies, the Vintners and Dyers, proceed up the river, nearly as high as Marlow, to mark the young ones, which ceremony bears the appellation of ſwan-hopping.



The [illegible] Library



Kew bridge &c from Strand on the green.

Pub.for S. Ireland May 1.1799.

SECTION VII.

THE preſent handſome ſtone-bridge at Kew, from a deſign of the late Mr. Payne, is in its conſtruction ſimple, yet elegant, and does credit to the ſkill of its architect.

THE form of this bridge is much hurt by the neceſſary addition of ſo many brick arches at either end, particularly thoſe which have been occaſioned by the marſhy ſituation of the ſhore on the Surry ſide. It was erected nearly parallel with the old ſtructure, which did not ſtand more than thirty years, the act of parliament having paſſed for its building in 1758. The preſent bridge was opened for carriages, &c. on the King's birth-day, the 4th of June, 1790.

THE advantages of the Kew-bridge tontine, which has been eſtabliſhed only a few years, I am informed are ſo great as to produce a net intereſt to the laſt claſs of ſubſcribers, of more than nine per cent.

IN this neighbourhood, among other buildings of public notice, that of Gunnerſbury-Houſe, near Brentford, ſhould not paſs unobſerved, as having been the work of Inigo Jones, the celebrity of whoſe name cannot preſerve it from the cenſure it ſo juſtly merits. It is a deſign unequal in its parts, compoſed of large unwieldy ornaments of foreign growth, injudiciouſly thruſt into apartments which were originally conſtructed too ſmall for convenience. We have a large ſtair-caſe, though noble in itſelf, yet enormous for the ſize of the houſe, and to which every conſideration has been ſacrificed; and alſo a grand front, compoſed merely of a por-

a portico, which ſeems waiting for that period, when an additional wing on either ſide may give it ſomething like a finiſh.

It is ſome palliation, however, of the errors of the preſent day, in building, when we find that either the good ſenſe or rare talents of Inigo Jones can ſometimes ſlumber, and leave us the painful reflection, that to err, is the lot of humanity.

The rage for building has extended itſelf in no inconſiderable degree on the banks of the Thames, in the neighbourhood of Kew: Strand on the Green, by no means the moſt eligible ſituation, and lately a ſmall village, inhabited by fiſhermen, is now one continued range of houſes, till we reach Chiſwick, which has juſtly gained much celebrity from the charming villa, now in the poſſeſſion of the Duke of Devonſhire, but formerly the reſidence of that extraordinary

genius Richard Boyle, Earl of Burlington, from whoſe deſign it was erected. His extenſive munificence, and liberal patronage of the fine arts, juſtly rendered him the Mecænas of his age, but with higher qualities than merely the ability to reward merit in others, he was himſelf ſuperior, in his ſcience, to moſt of thoſe whom he patronized. The general idea of this building is evidently from Palladio, and I have heard it remarked as being copied from the famous Rotonda, of Marcheſe Capra, in the environs of Vicenza.

THE criticiſms that have been made on this building, are certainly not without juſtice; it ſtands on too contracted a ſpace for the extenſive nature of the deſign, being only ſeventy feet ſquare. excluſive of the portico.

A CONTEMPORARY wit, Lord Hervey, happily exerciſed his talents in obſerving, " The houſe was too ſmall to inhabit, and

" too

" too large to hang to one's watch;" and he has not inelegantly worked up the " Quam " bene non habitas" of Martial, in the following ſarcaſtic little epigram:

" Poſſeſs'd of one great hall for ſtate,
" Without one room to ſleep or eat,
" How well you build let flattery tell—
" And all mankind how ill you dwell."

Yet in ſpite of all this, and alſo the redundancy and maſſiveneſs of parts, which are too frequently to be found in the ſmaller apartments in this houſe, the ſevereſt critic muſt allow, there is a degree of taſte and claſſic elegance in the whole, that muſt ever render it an object of firſt-rate admiration.

THE great veneration in which the works of Inigo Jones were held by Lord Burlington, is almoſt proverbial; he is known to have purchaſed the gate of Beaufort Garden

in Chelſea, a work of this architect, and to have removed it with a religious care and attention to his villa at Chiſwick; and in the garden, near the river, he has given us an exact model of the portico of Covent Garden church.

As a further inſtance of the exceſs to which ſome may think this veneration was carried, I have heard it related, that a perſon in Wapping, accidentally ſeeing ſome butter wrapped in a dirty paper, filled with architectural ſketches, found, on enquiry, that there was a large parcel of the ſame deſigns in the ſhop of a cheeſemonger in the neigbourhood; on examining them, little doubt remained of their being genuine deſigns of Inigo Jones; he accordingly exchanged cleaner paper for them, and ſoon after he came into poſſeſſion of this treaſure, was applied to by Lord Burlington, who on expreſſing a deſire to become a pur-

a purchaſer, obtained them for the moderate ſum of two thouſand pounds. I do not vouch for the truth of this ſtory.

THE garden ſcenery of this elegant villa is rich in orange trees, cypreſſes, firs and foreſt trees. The avenue of cedars of Libanus, leading to the houſe, are ſaid to have been planted by the noble Earl, and the good effect produced from them in maturity, exhibits a proof of his lordſhip's taſte in their original deſignation.

THE ſtatues of Palladio and his favorite Inigo Jones, decorate this entrance from the garden. It is to be regretted that the ſculptured ornaments of theſe grounds, are ſcattered with too much profuſion. They are principally the works of Scheemaker, and may with juſtice be admired; but it is poſſible to have a redundancy of excellence, in works of art ſo applied.

THE

THE internal decorations of this beautiful villa muſt be allowed to correſpond with the external building. Here the beſt works of the beſt maſters, both in the Italian and Flemiſh ſchools are ſelected, but are too numerous, and too well known, to be particulariſed in this work.

QUITTING this ſcene, which preſents every thing that can give a reliſh to earthly enjoyment, we are led to its reverſe, a ſcene of ſolitude and reflection—The church-yard! that ſolemn retreat, "from whoſe bourne "no traveller returns."

HERE are depoſited the remains of ſome whoſe extraordinary talents yet live in remembrance, amongſt whom reſts the inimitable Gainſborough, who died Auguſt 2, 1788, at the age of ſixty-one. As a man and an artiſt he has left few equals; yet after three years interment, we find no frail teſtimonial

bearing

bearing record to his ſuperior genius, nor even a grave-ſtone to indicate where he lies, but it is to his works we muſt refer for a laſting monument of his excellence. Here likewiſe reſts our great Engliſh ſatyriſt William Hogarth, who died October 26, 1764, aged ſixty-ſeven years; and on whoſe monument, which is ornamented with a maſk, a laurel wreath, a pallette, pencils, and a book inſcribed "Analyſis of Beauty," are the following lines by his friend the late Mr. Garrick:

"Farewell, great Painter of mankind,
"Who reach'd the nobleſt point of art;
"Whoſe pictur'd morals charm the mind,
"And through the eye correct the heart.
"If Genius fire thee, reader, ſtay,
"If Nature touch thee, drop a tear;
"If neither move thee, turn away,
"For Hogarth's honour'd duſt lies here."

The annexed ſketch of the monument of this extraordinay genius, whoſe talents muſt ever do honour to the country that produced him,

him, as it has never been engraved, will, I truſt, prove not unacceptable to his admirers.



On the oppoſite ſhore adjoining to Mortlake is Eaſt Sheen, long the reſidence of Sir William Temple, who upon his retreat hither in 1672, ſeems to have entertained a high opinion of this ſoil and ſituation, and to have

have expected much from its produce, as we find by a letter written from Bruſſels to Lord Liſle, before his firſt coming over in Auguſt 1667, where he ſays, "I am contriving here "this ſummer how a ſucceſſion of cher- "ries may be compaſſed from May to Mi- "chaelmas, and how the riches of Sheen "vines may be improved by half a dozen "ſorts which are not yet known there, and "which I think much beyond any that are."

WHAT might have been expected from the Sheen vines, or what was produced, we know not, but at preſent we hear nothing of the ſuperior excellence of the grape at that place. Here Sir William Temple was often viſited by King William ſoon after his landing, and as often preſſed to become his Secretary of State, which on account of age and infirmities he declined.

It was about this period that Dr. Swift came to offer his ſervices to Sir William, who there took him as an amanuenſis.

About the end of the year 1689, ſoon after the unfortunate death of his ſon Mr. John Temple, Sir William exchanged his ſituation for Moor Park, one at that period every way inferior, where he reſided till the year 1698, when worn out with the gout, and a natural decay, he died in his ſeventieth year.

Agreeable to his will, his heart was buried in a ſilver box, under the ſun-dial in his garden, oppoſite to the window, whence he uſed to contemplate and admire the works of nature, with his dearly beloved ſiſter the ingenious Lady Gyffard.

Amongst the elegant retreats which adorn

adorn the banks of the Thames in this vicinity, the ſequeſtered villa of Sir Richard Hoare, at Barn Elms, ſhould not be paſſed unnoticed. The verdant and ſpacious lawn that ſlopes from the houſe towards the river, is frequently the ſcene of much feſtivity to many chearful parties from the capital: even as far back as the time of Congreve, we find mention made of the fame of this retreat; in his comedy of Love for Love Mrs. Frail obſerves, "that had ſhe gone to Barn Elms with "a man alone, ſomething might have been "ſaid."

THE celebrated Mr. Heydegger of opera memory formerly reſided here, and had the honour of entertaining the late King with much ſplendor. The tall elms were trimmed and illumined on the occaſion, and in all probability were taught to do every thing but dance before the Sovereign.

In the year 1776 the city of London cauſed a towing-path to be made from Putney to Richmond, which encloſed theſe grounds, and gave additional ſecurity to the neighbouring meadows.

From hence paſſing down the river, the decayed and apparently dangerous ſtate of Putney-bridge cannot fail to diſguſt the obſerver. This diſgraceful appendage to the river was erected in the year 1729, when the pontage or toll was ſettled on the ſubſcribers by act of parliament; and, as I am informed, was within twelve months after ſo greatly advantageous to them, as to repay all their diſburſements. At the extremities of this tottering bridge ſtand the rival churches of Putney and Fulham, which are ſaid to have been built by two ſiſters.

Amongst the many elegant manſions that adorn the village of Putney, few have been



Putney - bridge & Church.

Pub.d for S. Ireland May 1. 1799.

The Grenville Library

been erected on the banks of the Thames. That of the late Sir Joſhua Vanneck ſtands conſpicuous, but has nothing about it to render it an object worthy attention.

In a ſmall white houſe between theſe premiſes and the bridge, it may perhaps not be generally known that Richardſon, the ingenious novelliſt reſided, and produced his much admired work of Sir Charles Grandiſon, &c. Putney is rendered famous from having been the birth-place of Thomas Cromwell Earl of Eſſex, whoſe father was a blackſmith in this village. The great talents and integrity of this able ſtateſman merited a leſs ſevere fate than that which attended him. He was brought to the ſcaffold by the tyrant Henry, on the 8th of July, 1540.

The town of Fulham, on the Middleſex ſhore, derives its name from the Saxon, Fullon-ham, i. e. a houſe of Fowle. Whether the

the adjoining old palace, which has ſo long been occupied by the Biſhops of London, was originally this " houſe of fowle," to denote the good living within, or whether from the neighbourhood producing good poultry, is not generally known. The Saxon chronicle informs us that in this ſpot an army of Danes wintered, in the year 879, previous to their flight into Ghent in Flanders.

THE river ſcenery, below Putney, though by no means equal in luxuriance to that above the bridge, has yet, if we may judge from the late increaſe of buildings in its vicinity, many admirers. The view towards Batterſea-riſe and Wandſworth is richer in houſes than verdant ſcenery. Wandſworth is ſaid to have obtained its name from the river Wandle, which paſſes through the town, and empties itſelf beneath a bridge into the Thames.

AT Chelſea Reach the river increaſes much in

in width, and is famed in particular winds for its extreme agitation, and ſometimes dangerous roughneſs, which has given riſe to a quaint ſaying among the watermen: "That "a ſet of fidlers having been drowned in this "reach, many years ago, the river has been "occaſionally dancing ever ſince." Ludicrous and vulgar as this remark may appear, we find a paſſage equally abſurd, and no more deſerving credit, on the high authority of Ariſtotle, who tells us of a merry river, "the "river Eluſina, that dances at the noiſe of "muſic; for with muſic it bubbles, dances "and grows ſandy, and ſo continues till the "muſic ceaſes, but then it preſently turns "to its wonted calmneſs and clearneſs;" and to complete the wonders that rivers have been capable of performing without either the aid of muſic or fidler; Joſephus tells us of a river in Judea that "runs "ſwiftly all the ſix days of the week, and "ſtands ſtill and reſts all their ſabbath."

BATTERSEA

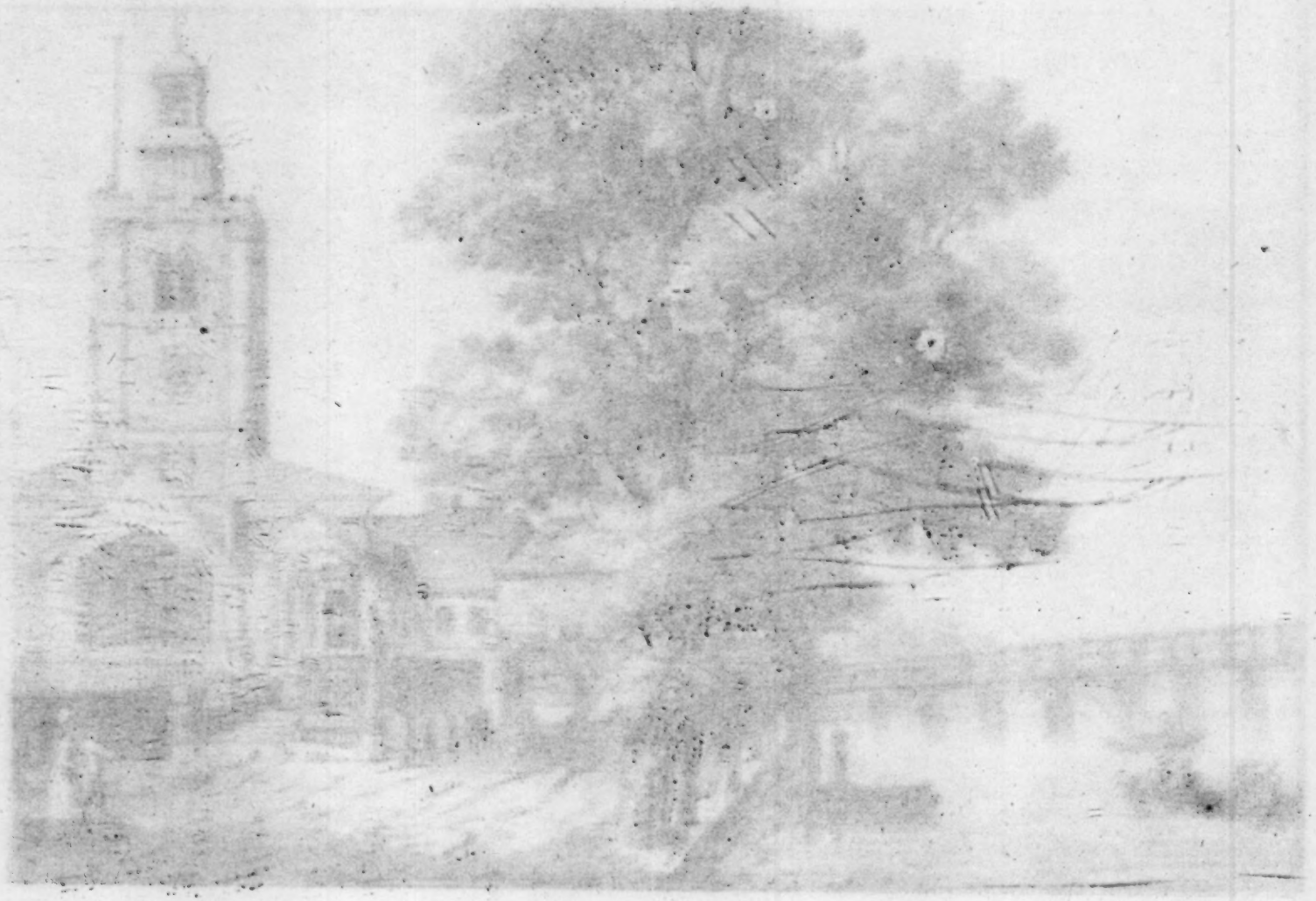
BATTERSEA Church is a neat ſtructure of brick with the addition of ſtone coins, and ornaments; it has been erected within a few years, and would merit farther commendation if the ſpire had been otherwiſe formed; it ſeems to have been modelled from a candle extinguiſher.

THE village of Batterſea is remarkable for having been the birth-place of one of the moſt extraordinary perſons this kingdom has produced, Henry St. John, Lord Viſcount Bolingbroke. He was borne here in 1672, and on the 15th of November, 1751, after a life of ſtrange political viciſſitudes, ended his earthly career, where he had often wiſhed to fetch his laſt breath, at Batterſea, in which church he was interred, in the vault of his noble anceſtors, and a marble monument erected to his memory, with a ſuitable inſcription.

THE

THE greater part of the old manſion has been recently pulled down, what remains is applied to the uſes of the neighbouring diſtillery, where a horizontal mill, on a novel conſtruction, for the purpoſe of grinding linſeed, was erected about three years ſince, by a Mr. Fowler, at a conſiderable expence. The height of this building is about eighty feet, its diameter towards its baſe fifty-two feet, and at the extreme height forty-ſeven. Its advantages over the ordinary windmill are ſaid to be very conſiderable; it was deſigned by a Mr. Hooper of Margate, where another mill, on the ſame plan was erected ſome years ſince, which was the firſt of the kind ever conſtructed in this kingdom.

ON the oppoſite ſhore is the pleaſant villa of Lord Dartrey, and adjoining to it that of Lady Mary Cook, both of which are rapidly loſing the beauties of their ſituation, by the increaſe of buildings in their vicinity.



The Granville Library



Chelsea

Pub. for S. Ireland May 1.1799

SECTION VIII.

WITHIN two miles of the capital, the curious obſerver is again offended with another taſteleſs object, the wooden bridge of Batterſea, where the breadth of the river, and its contiguity to the metropolis, certainly demanded a more elegant ſtructure.

THE original coſt of this bridge was twelve thouſand eight hundred pounds, which ſum was raiſed by ſixteen perſons, in ſhares of eight hundred pounds each. The preſent heavy expence of toll, it might reaſonably have been ſuppoſed, would have defrayed the extra charge of a bridge of ſtone; but, I am informed, that heavy as that expence may appear, it barely affords common intereſt to the perſons concerned in the under taking.

If the advantages ariſing to the ſubſcribers from the toll of this bridge are ſo inconſiderable, it is much to be regretted, that ſome parliamentary aid had not been ſolicited, to have produced a ſum equal to the expence of raiſing a magnificent ſtructure.

The contracted ſcale on which this undertaking was begun, (in conſequence of which the bridge was thrown acroſs a narrow part of the river) has been productive of great inconvenience. It ſhould certainly have abutted on the Chelſea ſide, nearly oppoſite the church, in which direction it would have ſtood in a right angle with the current of the river: not being ſo placed, its piers are continually receiving injury from the veſſels and barges ſtriking againſt them.

To the ancient church of Chelſea ſo many modern additions have been made, ſo ill-adapted to the original deſign as to render the

the external appearance of this ſtructure little deſerving attention. Of the internal decorations, among other monuments worthy the notice of the curious, I ſhall mention that on the ſouth ſide of the choir, erected by Sir Thomas More, in the year 1532, to the memory of his two wives, conſiſting of a black marble tablet, which gives an account of his father's employments, &c. in a long Latin inſcription of his own compoſition.

Sir Thomas, ſoon after he was made Treaſurer of the Exchequer, about the year 1520, purchaſed ſome land at Chelſea, on the banks of the river, on which he erected a ſpacious manſion of brick, the greater part of which is now ſtanding, and is reduced to the humble uſes of a paper manufactory. Its ſituation is in Cheyne Walk, adjoining to the houſe of the Biſhop of Wincheſter; it has undergone many alterations, and has loſt much of its Gothic and venerable appearance.

The

THE entrance to two regular arched ſubterraneous paſſages appears in the court-yard before the houſe; one is reported to lead to Kenſington, the other to Hammerſmith, for what ſecret purpoſes we are yet to learn. Of the chapel, gallery, &c. ſaid by his biographers to have been erected by him in the garden of this houſe, no traces are now diſcernible.

IN the year 1533, with ſome difficulty, he obtained leave to reſign the great ſeal, and as the affair was not immediately known, the next morning, being a holiday, he went to Chelſea church with his lady and family, where during the ſervice, he ſat, as uſual, in the choir, wearing a ſurplice; and becauſe it had been a cuſtom, after maſs was done, for one of his gentlemen to go to his lady's pew, and tell her that my lord was gone before; he came now himſelf, and making her a low bow ſaid, "Madam, my lord is gone:" ſhe think-

thinking it to be no more than his uſual humour, took no notice of it; but in the way home, to her great mortification, he unriddled the jeſt, by acquainting her with what he had done the preceding day.

This ill-fated great ſtateſman was beheaded on Tower-hill, July 5, 1535. His body was interred in the chapel of the Tower, and being afterwards begged by his daughter Margaret, was depoſited in the ſouth ſide of the chancel, in the church of Chelſea. The ſame piouſly diſpoſed daughter ſoon found means to procure his head alſo, which had remained fourteen days ſtuck on a pole, on London-bridge; this ſhe carefully preſerved for ſome time in a leaden box, till a proper opportunity offered of removing it to Canterbury, when ſhe placed it in a vault belonging to the Roper's family (into which ſhe married) under a chapel adjoining to St. Dunſtan's church in that city.

Wood ſays, "the head had remained on "the bridge ſome months, and that the "daughter was taken up for it, and being "examined before the Council, declared ſhe "bought it, that it might not become food "for fiſhes in the Thames; ſo after a ſhort "impriſonment ſhe was diſcharged."

In the church-yard of Chelſea is the family monument of that eminent phyſician and naturaliſt, Sir Hans Sloane, Founder of the Britiſh muſeum, and Preſident of the Royal Society. Sir Hans purchaſed the manor of Chelſea, and gave, with his wonted liberality, the entire freehold of the botanical garden to the Company of Apothecaries in 1721, upon condition only, that they ſhould preſent yearly to the Royal Society fifty new plants, till the number ſhould amount to two thouſand. This garden was eſtabliſhed by the Company in 1763; and from its excellent ſituation on the banks of the Thames, and its

its contiguity to the capital, it derived many peculiar advantages. It is famed for producing the moſt rare medicinal plants, and is conſequently an excellent ſchool for young botaniſts, a proof of which we have from Sir Hans Sloane himſelf, having drawn from thence, in the early part of his life, his beſt knowledge.

In 1733 the Company erected a marble ſtatue of the donor in the center of the garden, which is well executed by Ryſbrack. Two noble cedars of Libanus conſpicuouſly mark the front of this garden towards the river.

In May, 1741, at the age of four-ſcore, this good and learned man reſigned the preſidency of the Royal Society, and quitting the ſervice of the public in the next year, removed his library, which conſiſted of more than fifty thouſand volumes, and his cele-

brated muſeum, from Bloomſbury to the manor houſe at Chelſea, his then reſidence. This houſe ſtood in Cheyne-walk, near what is called Saltero's Coffee-houſe.

HERE he does not ſeem to have lived in ſecluſion from the world, as he was continually receiving the viſits of the learned and great, and ſtill more to his praiſe, was ever acceſſible to a numerous train of poor, who never aſked advice, or ſued for relief in vain.

IN his ninetieth year he felt ſtrong indications of an univerſal decay, which brought with them none of thoſe terrors ſo frequently attendant on the approach of death. After an illneſs of three days, he expired on the 11th of January, 1752, and was interred on the 18th, according to the directions of his will, in the ſame vault with his lady, in Chelſea church-yard.



The Grenville Library



Chelsea College. & Ranelagh-house

Pub. for S. Ireland May 1.1799.

At Little Chelſea, in a houſe formerly occupied by Lord Shafteſbury, and ſince by Mr. Serjeant Wynne, reſided the juſtly celebrated John Locke. A ſmall ſummer-houſe ſtill remains in the gardens, which uſed to be his favourite apartment, and in which (a ridiculous inſtance of the veneration paid by poſterity to eminent talents) has recently been ſhewn, part of the bed on which he ſlept.

Chelsea College forms no inconſiderable ornament to the river Thames; it is one of the many ſuperb and uſeful buildings erected in this country, in the gay and careleſs reign of Charles II. It were fruitleſs to enquire why a diſſipated and licentious reign, like that of Charles, ſhould have encouraged and patroniſed ſo many great works; but certain it is, that no other period has produced an equal number, in which ſo much excellence and utility have been united. It is no leſs ſingular, that in the opinion of

a very diſtinguiſhed writer, the late Mr. Juſtice Blackſtone, the fabric alſo of our conſtitution was, at that time, brought to a point of theoretical perfection, which it cannot exceed.

Sir Chriſtoper Wren, whoſe name muſt ever be dear to the admirer of the arts, happily for this reign, ſhone forth a modern Vitruvius, and it is to his taſte, and ſuperior ſkill in architecture, that we owe the deſign of this noble building. On the ſpot on which it was erected ſtood formerly a college, founded by James I. for the ſtudy of polemic divinity, of which the King laid the firſt ſtone, and contributed ſomething towards its eſtabliſhment; the clergy too threw in their mite, and the public likewiſe contributed: yet, all theſe aſſiſtances were found unequal to its ſupport, and being left unfiniſhed, it ſoon fell into neglect and decay.

THE ground on which it ſtood having eſcheated to the crown, Charles II. as it is reported, at the inſtigation of Nell Gwyn, began to erect the preſent building, which was continued by James his ſucceſſor, and completed by William and Mary.

THE north front of this building is enriched with a noble pediment, ſupported by columns of the Tuſcan order, in a bold and maſterly ſtile of deſign; beneath which, on each ſide, is a ſpacious room, the one uſed as a chapel, and the other as a dining-hall for the penſioners. In the former is a good picture of the Reſurrection, by Seb. Ricci, and in the latter ſome inferior works of Verrio, ſaid to be finiſhed by Cook.

THIS great and extenſive work is conſtructed of brick, with pillars and ruſticated ſtone coins, and is ſo happily diſpoſed in all its parts, as to convey an high idea of the

the ſound judgment of the architect, and his ſuperior knowledge both of what is uſeful and elegant. It were to be wiſhed that the blanks both above and below the principal windows, which are of brick, had remained in their natural colour, as they are now very offenſive to an obſerving eye, and form ſo many white unmeaning ſpots.

THE expence of the building was eſtimated at one hundred and fifty thouſand pounds, and the ground belonging to it conſiſts of forty acres. Here are accommodations for upwards of four hundred penſioners, who are amply provided with every convenience that can contribute to their comfort and happineſs.

A BRONZE figure of the merry monarch, habited as a Roman, ſtands in the middle of the entrance. The ſouth front has two large wings, which, from their extent and regularity

larity of deſign, preſent a grand object towards the water.

CONTIGUOUS to this noble charity is another handſome addition to this river, the ſpacious amphitheatre of Ranelagh! whoſe pleaſurable round has been ſo often and ſo long frequented by all ranks of people, as to render a particular deſcription needleſs. It derived its name from an Earl of Ranelagh, whoſe houſe was ſituated on this ſpot.

OF the innumerable benefits derived from the river Thames, Chelſea and its neighbourhood have had an ampe ſhare, by means of the water-works which have ſupplied them with that neceſſary element, before obtained with great difficulty, and which muſt every where be claſſed amongſt the firſt neceſſaries of life.

THESE works are divided into two thouſand

ſand ſhares; the proprietors were incorporated by act of parliament in 1722, and have power to purchaſe lands, &c. in mortmain, to the value of one thouſand pounds per annum.

THE much admired gardens of Vauxhall, on the ſouth ſide of this river, however well adapted to their purpoſe, would not here have been noticed, were it not for the ſuperior excellence of the ſtatue of Handel, which is certainly a chef d'œuvre of Roubilliac, although the firſt great diſplay of the ſculptor's abilities.

This maſter of harmony is characteriſed as Orpheus ſounding his lyre; and the excellence of the ſculpture exhibits ſuch a model of perfection, both in deſign and execution, as might ſtand the teſt of criticiſm, even of a Michael Angelo.

THIS figure is a whole length and beautiful marble, not quite ſo large as life, and is a ſingular inſtance of a ſtatue erected to living merit;

merit; it has been within a few years judiciouſly removed from its expoſed ſituation, to a receſs within the great room, ſecured from the inclemency of the ſeaſon, and the ſtill ruder touch of the hands of the vulgar. This combination of rare talents in the perſon repreſented, and the happy idea of the ſculptor, gave riſe to the following well-turned compliment:

" Drawn by the fame of theſe embower'd retreats,
" See Orpheus riſing from th' Elyſian ſeats!
" Loſt to th' admiring world three thouſand years,
" Beneath great Handel's form he re-appears."

On the derivation of the name of theſe gardens I will venture a conjectural opinion from a remark of the late Dr. Ducarel. He ſays, Guy Faux, or Vaux, was once an inhabitant of Lambeth, and lived in a large manſion called Faux-Hall, and that he was probably lord of the manor of this place. The ſite whereon this manſion ſtood, was near

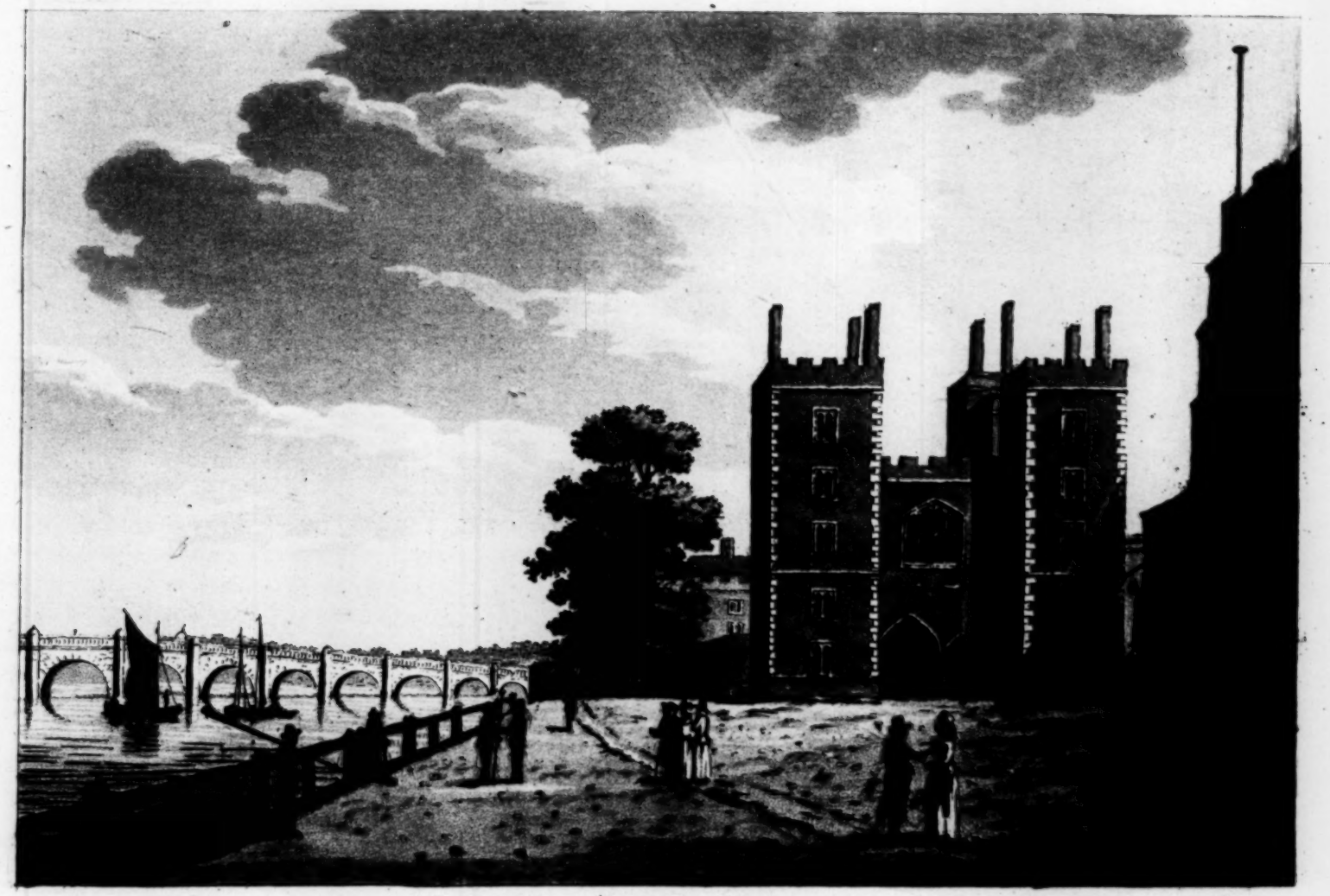
or on the ſpot, now called Cumberland-gardens. May it not therefore from hence reaſonably be concluded, that the name of theſe gardens originated from this ſource?

THE ſcenery of the Thames on the Lambeth ſide, receives no additional beauty from the miſerable range of buildings erected on its banks, along what was, and is ſtill in parts, called Lambeth-marſh. In the reign of Queen Elizabeth there was no houſe built either on this or on Millbank, the oppoſite ſhore, ſo called from a mill formerly ſtanding on the ſpot, on which the houſe, late Sir Robert Groſvenor's, now ſtands.

FROM hence the eye is diſguſted with the maſſive and inſipid towers of the church of St. John the Evangeliſt, Weſtminſter, which hath with juſtice been ſo univerſally condemned, nor would it have been mentioned here, but from my wiſh to reſcue the

name

The Grenville Library



Lambeth Palace, &c.

name of Vanbrugh from the unmerited reproach of having been its architect. It is the work of a Mr. Archer, who I ſtrongly ſuſpect had applied himſelf with more induſtry than taſte, to the ſtudy of the works of that artiſt, and ſeems here, with a ſtrange fatality, to have ſelected all his defects.

THE remark of the late Lord Cheſterfield on this building has no leſs of wit than juſtneſs of criticiſm: "That it is like an ele-" phant thrown on its back, with its feet " erected in the air."

THE venerable palace and church of Lambeth, in whatever point they are viewed from the Thames, meet the eye as a ſtately pile of antiquity. The ground on which the palace ſtands, originally belonged to the ſee of Rocheſter; but from its contiguity to the court became an object to the Metropolitan, and in 1168, Baldwin, then Archbiſhop of Canter-

bury purchaſed this ſpot of the Biſhop of Rocheſter, and erected a palace thereon. This ſtructure was, about eighty years after, much improved by the proud prelate Boniface, who retired hither to make his peace with heaven, after cudgelling the ſub-prior and monks of St. Bartholomew, for refuſing him the priorſhip of their monaſtery.

The grand weſt entrance was built by Cardinal De la Pole; the more modern additions of the chapel and hall by Archbiſhop Juxon, are both ſo diſſimilar in taſte and deſign to the original plan, as to form at the entrance an heterogeneous and motly aſſemblage of objects. Adjoining to the hall is the Lollard's Tower, the works of Archbiſhop Chichely. In the upper apartments of this tower, which is lined with ſtout oak, are ſtill remaining ſeveral large iron rings and ſtaples, driven into the wall, to which the

the unfortunate adherents to the cauſe of Wickliffe were chained, before they were brought to the ſtake.

THE ſeverities exerciſed under this prelate, however palliated by the ſpirit and prejudices of the times, will yet be thought, in the cooler judgment of poſterity, to ſully a name that would otherwiſe have done honour to any age. Thanks to Heaven we live in a period when every man may think and ſpeak freely, without the dread of chains or faggots, and when Proteſtant and Catholic ſeem to have but one wiſh, to live peaceably, and in all things to conform themſelves to one another.

THE gallery of this palace has been recently modernized by the preſent excellent prelate, but the old portraits are ſtill remaining, among which are ſeveral worthy attention, viz. Cardinal De la Pole, who built the room, and Archbiſhops Warham, Chichely, and

and Parker. The library was founded in 1610 by Archbiſhop Bancroft, who bequeathed to it all his books: it has ſince been ſo conſiderably increaſed by the ſucceeding archbiſhops, as to conſiſt at preſent of more than twenty-five thouſand volumes. The gardens belonging to this palace contain about nine acres, and have a communication acroſs the road to the Thames. In the adjoining pariſh church of Lambeth, on the ſouth ſide of the choir, is a ſmall painting on glaſs, of a pedlar and his dog, ſaid to be the portrait of the perſon who



bequeathed

bequeathed to the pariſh a piece of ground near the eaſt end of the abutment, on the Surry ſide of Weſtminſter-bridge: the ſpot is now called Pedlar's-acre, and contains one acre ſeventeen poles.

The nature of this bequeſt was, that the prieſt of the pariſh ſhould give conſent to burying the pedlar's favourite dog within the church walls, which being acceded to, the pariſh became ſeized of this land in the year 1504, at which period it was valued at two ſhillings and eight-pence per annum. In 1752 a leaſe of it was granted to a Mr. Wells for ſixty-one years, at one hundred pounds per annum, and a fine of eight hundred pounds. It is now eſtimated at two hundred and fifty pounds per annum. Fabulous as this ſtory may appear, yet it may be thought worthy of relation, as it tends to ſhew the amazing increaſed value of landed property within

within the period of two hundred and eighty years.

In the church-yard the monument or altar tomb of the Tradeſcant family may be entitled to notice. Their laborious reſearches, in the ſtudy of every branch of natural hiſtory, muſt render their name ever reſpected by the admirers of that ſpecies of philoſophy.

SEC-

The Grenville Library



Westminster-bridge. Abbey. &c.

Pub. for S. Ireland May 1. 1799.

SECTION IX.

APPROACHING Weſtminſter, the grand aſſemblage of venerable and Gothic ſcenery, combined with the ſtately bridge, and other modern edifices raiſed within the laſt century, cannot fail to inſpire the mind of every obſerver, whether native or foreigner, with an exalted idea of the wealth and ſplendor of the Britiſh empire.

THE variety of objects compriſed in this view, are of an extent too diffuſed to be brought within the ſize of the preſent work; the annexed ſketch from below the bridge, was therefore preferred, and, I flatter myſelf, will be deemed the moſt judicious ſelection; and in the hiſtory of theſe objects, I ſhall confine myſelf within narrow limits to ſome general remarks on their external forms, as

they appear to illuſtrate the pictureſque ſcenery of the river Thames.

The abbey church of St. Peter's Weſtminſter, conſidered in this point of view, certainly appears flat and wanting height; and it is with regret we find that after ſo many centuries, whether from poverty or avarice, the neceſſary appendage of a ſteeple has yet been withheld.

In 1713 Sir Chriſtopher Wren, in his memorial relative to this church, ſays, it clearly appears to have been the original intention to erect a ſteeple by the "beginnings which are "diſcoverable on the corners of the croſs, "but left before it roſe ſo high as the ridge "of the roof." Sir Chriſtopher's deſign for a ſteeple, which I have ſeen, is light and elegant, and perfectly adapted to the Gothic ſtyle of the whole ſtructure; but he ſays, he has "varied a little from the uſual form in "giving

" giving twelve ſides to the ſpire, inſtead of " eight." He has decorated the angles of the pyramids with a flower the Botaniſts call Calceolus, an ornament that it is to be wiſhed had been more generally applied in the courſe of the repairs which took place under this able architect. The want of Gothic ornaments in the many additions made by him, is but too apparent; yet our knowledge of his architectural ſkill is ſuch, as to induce us, with reſpect to theſe omiſſions, to vary the charge, and throw it rather upon thoſe who are known to have limited him too much in point of expence.

THE decayed and dangerous ſtate of this immenſe pile required ſo many additions and repairs in the beginning of the preſent century, as to render it a work of twenty-five years in completing; and deficient as it may appear in the want of well-adapted ornaments, we are yet pleaſed to find, that what

was done, was under the conduct of his judicious eye, or we might now have witneſsed amongſt other abſurdities of the preſent century, the richer columns of the five Roman orders lending their feeble aid, as butreſſes, to ſupport the Gothic remains of the Abbey of Weſtminſter.

The elegant ſtructure, called Henry VII's or our Lady's Chapel, was finiſhed in 1502. Towards the erection of this building, the King contributed in the whole ſixteen thouſand pounds, and afterwards added three thouſand pounds more, which was delivered to the Abbot of Weſtminſter, to defray the expence of maſſes to be ſaid at ſix-pence each, between the period of his death and burial. It is much to be regretted that this "nice em-" broidered" fabric, as Sir Chriſtopher Wren terms it, was conſtructed of ſuch periſhable materials as the ſtone from Caen in Normandy. Had the penurious and prieſt-rid Monarch

narch applied the ſum expended in ſix-penny maſſes to defray the extra-charge of good Portland or freeſtone, the produce of our own country, we ſhould yet have had the gratification of viewing the building in ſomething like that ſtate of perfection, which entitled it to be termed "the miracle of the world;" and the Sovereign, though he had loſt the prayers of the church, would at leaſt have obtained (what might have anſwered quite as well) the good wiſhes of every man of taſte in the kingdom. I think I may, without cenſure, here obſerve, that this juſtly-admired ſtructure is ſo ſhamefully miſplaced, as to deſtroy all ſymmetry in the ſouth front of the abbey, and to appear rather an excreſcence than an ornament. The prudence of modern times, however, has taken no ſmall pains in keeping pace with the want of taſte in our anceſtors, by crouding this noble building with ſo many additions, as almoſt to obſcure what appears cenſurable

ſurable in them, by reſent abſurdities ſtill greater of their own.

I AM informed that an eſtimate has been made to new-caſe the whole of this fine Gothic ſpecimen, with artificial ſtone-work of Coade's manufactory, and to preſerve every ornament agreeable to the original deſign; the expence is eſtimated at ten thouſand pounds.

WESTMINSTER Hall is generally allowed to be the largeſt room in Europe unſupported by pillars, its length is two hundred and ſeventy feet, and its breadth ſeventy-four; the height is well proportioned, and its curious vaulted roof of oak is in a fine ſtyle of Gothic deſign. It is to the period of Richard II. that we owe the building of this ſtately hall, which was finiſhed in its preſent form in 1397, and in two years after the

the King kept here a jovial Chriſtmas, entertaining each day upwards of ten thouſand gueſts, and employing two thouſand cooks.

How various has been the change of ſcenery exhibited in this hall ſince that period of feaſting! Now, except at coronations, nothing is heard of feaſtings but Parliaments have ſat here! Peers have been tried! and a King condemned to death! It does, indeed, at ſtated periods, exhibit the mock heroiſm of a champion's challenge; but inſtead of ſocial ſcenes of feſtivity, it is in general devoted to contention not more bloody, though in conſequences much more ſerious, than that of the champion—the altercation and wrangling of the bar. And here it may not be amiſs to mention the dangers that have ſometimes threatened the gentlemen of the long robe, from the high tides, which have occaſionally been known to riſe more than twenty-two feet, and to have overflowed

this

this hall and its neighbourhood. The laſt of theſe calamities was in February, 1791, when the lawyers, who were neceſſitated to paſs Weſtminſter-hall, and Palace-yard, were obliged to retreat in boats.

A SIMILAR circumſtance of diſtreſs occurred about thirty-ſix years ago, which is humorouſly adverted to by Henry Fielding, in his farce of Paſquin, in the following lines, where the repreſentative of law ſays,

" We have our omens too! the other day
" A mighty deluge ſwam into our hall
" As if it meant to waſh away the law."

AN idea, I am informed, has been ſuggeſted of removing the various buildings and incumbrances which at preſent ſurround this hall, which I doubt not would reveal many Gothic parts and ornaments that have been ſo long and ſo ſhamefully obſcured from the notice

notice of the curious. The entire removal of the decayed buildings of the Exchequer Chambers, &c. towards the river, would likewiſe make a ſpacious opening for the diſplay of Weſtminſter-bridge, a ſtructure which, amidſt all our boaſted improvements in this ſpecies of building, we have not yet exceeded.

THIS elegant work was begun and completed from a deſign, and under the management, of Mr. Charles Labelye, a native of Switzerland. The firſt ſtone was laid on the 29th of January, 1739, by Henry Earl of Pembroke, a nobleman to whoſe ſkill and taſte we owe much of its excellence. The whole of the ſuperſtructure is of Portland ſtone, except the ſpandrels of the arches, which are built of purbeck, a material, that is not only much cheaper, but being of a darker hue, makes a good back-ground, and gives a relief to the other parts conſtructed with Portland ſtone. The bridge was opened

for carriages ſeven years, nine months, and ſixteen days after the laying of the firſt ſtone, and was completely finiſhed, ſays the architect, in eleven years, nine months, and twenty-one days; he likewiſe informs us that the whole expence did not exceed two hundred and eighteen thouſand eight hundred pounds.

THIS bridge is twelve hundred and twenty-three feet in length, and its five principal arches have each more ſpace than the width of Weſtminſter-hall: The quantity of ſtone uſed in this building, is nearly double to that employed in St. Paul's cathedral.

IT is matter of aſtoniſhment that we find at that period ſo much oppoſition made to the building of a ſtone bridge. The plan and eſtimate for one compoſed of wood was laid before the Commiſſioners, and favorably received; but on urging the builder to fix a ſum for

for keeping it in repair, for a certain number of years, he declined making any propoſal; notwithſtanding which the wooden project had many friends, and it was only by a ſmall majority in the Houſe of Lords that the plan for a ſtone bridge was carried; thoſe in the minority obtained the appellation of Wooden Peers.

THE utility of a bridge on this ſpot was urged as far back as the reign of Elizabeth. The ferry at this place is known to have been eſtabliſhed ever ſince the time of the Romans, and on digging the foundation of this bridge, was found a copper medal, well preſerved; upon one ſide of which was the head of the Emperor Domitian, and on the reverſe the figure of a woman, holding a pair of ſcales in her right hand, and ſupporting a cornucopia with her left.

AT the completion of Weſtminſter-bridge,

the advantages ariſing from the ferry-boat, which had from time immemorial been the property of the Archbiſhop of Canterbury, having ceaſed, the ſum of two thouſand two hundred and five pounds, was given to that ſee as an equivalent.

THE great improvements recently made upon the Thames by the embankments at the houſes of the Dukes of Richmond and Buccleugh, and the Earl of Fife, are not only ornamental, but give an additional depth of water in aid to the navigation of the river. The cabinet of pictures in the houſe of the Duke of Buccleugh, is highly deſerving the attention of the curious. The decayed old building next the water, which formed part of the offices in the houſe of the late Dutcheſs of Portland, was the kitchen belonging to the old palace of Whitehall, and it is to be hoped, from its ruinous ſtate, will ſoon be removed, and the embankment

continued

continued down the river, till it joins that of Somerſet-place. The upper part of the elegant banquetting-houſe at Whitehall appears conſpicuous from the river; in the façade of this noble ſtructure, the happy adaption of the various orders and juſt proportions of all its ornaments, render it, in my judgment, a model of perfection, and a ſtudy for profeſſors in the ſcience of architecture, and if more attended to, the critical obſerver would not have ſo frequent occaſion to take offence at the abſurdities of modern elevations.

THIS edifice was begun in 1619; it was from a deſign of Inigo Jones, and was executed by Nicholas Stone, maſter-maſon and architect to the King; it was finiſhed in two years, and coſt ſeventeen thouſand pounds. Mr. Walpole ſays, that the pay of Inigo Jones, at the period of building this ſtructure, was only eight ſhillings and four-pence

per

per diem, and forty-ſix pounds per annum, for houſe-rent, &c.

THE emblematical pictures repreſenting the apotheoſis of King James, in the cieling, are the works of Sir Peter Paul Rubens, and juſtly rank amongſt his firſt productions; he was paid three thouſand pounds for this undertaking.

HUNGERFORD Stairs and Market derive their appellation from an Earl of Hungerford, whoſe houſe formerly ſtood on the ſite which the market now occupies: a little below Hungerford-ſtairs, the Biſhops of Norwich had their inn or lodgings, called Norwich Houſe, which having been purchaſed by Heath Archbiſhop of York, in 1556, was then called York Houſe. The premiſes were afterwards purchaſed and occupied by George Villiers, Duke of Buckingham, and after his death were parcelled out into ſtreets, which

ſtill

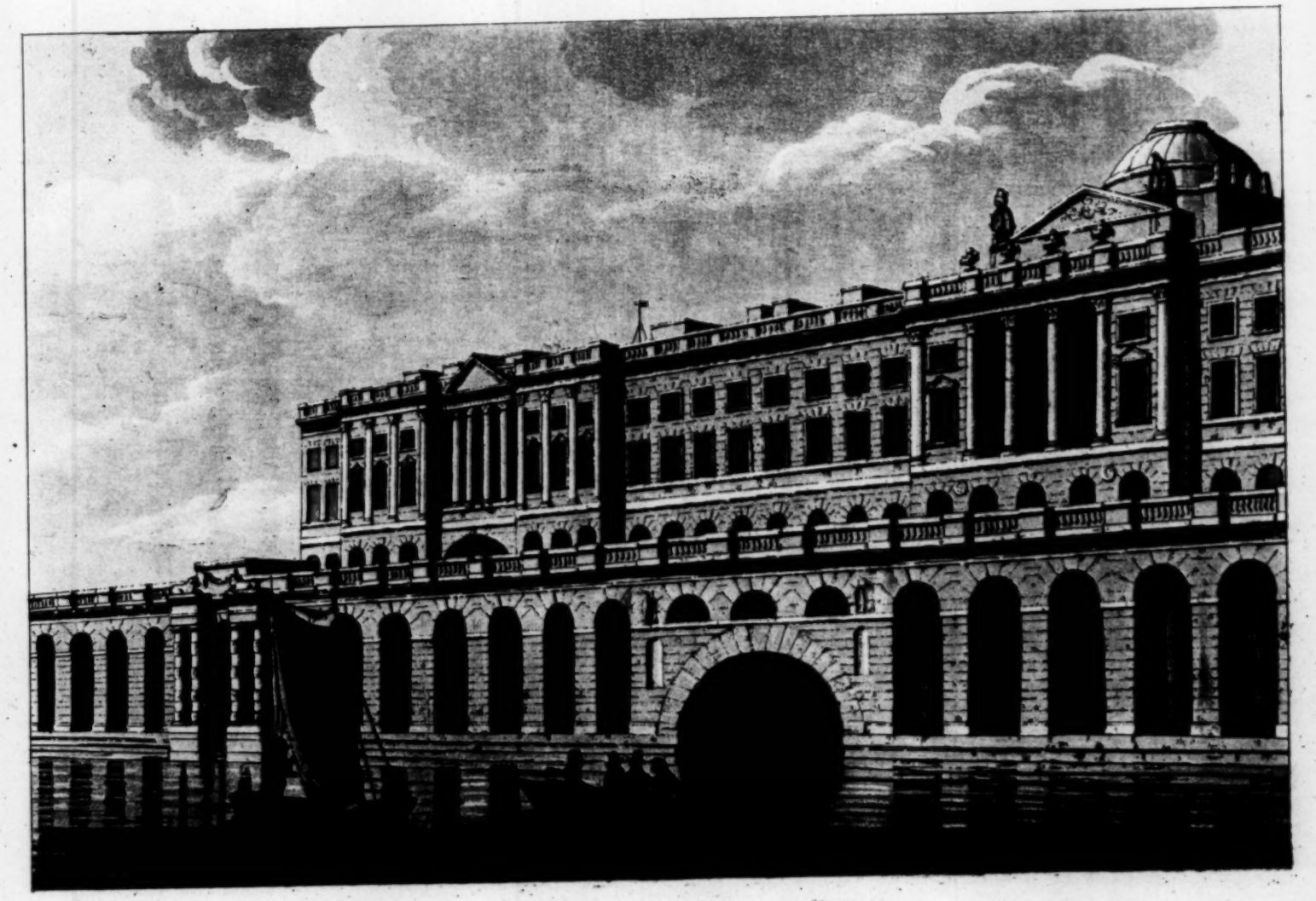
ſtill retain the name of York-buildings, &c.; the preſent gate to which, leading from the water, is the work of Inigo Jones, and remains another teſtimony of his unequalled excellence as an architect. The lions on this water-gate were ſculptured by Andrew Kearne, a German.

The elevated and very conſpicuous ſituation of that pile of building called the Adelphi, where ſo much brick and mortar has been heaped together, forms ſuch a mountain of abſurdity, as ſcarcely to be deemed worthy a criticiſm. Withoutſide this ponderous maſs we find a ſeries of trifling ornaments, fit only to be viewed through a microſcope, or to decorate a lady's dreſſing room; and though they may claim the merit of foreign growth, and of having been deſigned by the ancients, they were either totally diſcarded by them, or uſed only for inferior purpoſes.

THE back apartments in theſe buildings are principally in darkneſs, and almoſt deprived of air, while the grand front is parching in the ſummer months, nearly under the heat of the torrid zone; and ſhould the inhabitants eſcape the miſeries of ſuffocation, the perpetual rumbling of the coal carts, carriages, &c. beneath this pile, will at leaſt keep them in conſtant apprehenſion of being deſtroyed by an earthquake.

THIS building was erected on the ſpot called Durham-yard, where formerly ſtood the palace of the Biſhops of Durham, which was originally erected by Thomas De Hatfield, Biſhop of that ſee, in 1345. In the reign of Edward VI. the mint was eſtabliſhed here, by the influence of Thomas Seymour, Lord Admiral; it was afterwards the reſidence of the ambitious John Dudley, Earl of Northumberland; and Sir Walter Raleigh likewiſe obtained from Queen Elizabeth the uſe of Durham-place.

The Grenville Library



Somerset Place

Pub. for S. Ireland May 1. 1799.

Of the ancient palace called the Savoy, which was begun by Henry VII. and finiſhed by his ſon, little of the front, towards the river, now remains; the former edifice was celebrated in ancient times, as being the reſidence of Monarchs, and the priſon of John King of France, after the battle of Poictiers, in 1356. It was entirely deſtroyed by Wat Tyler in 1381, from his enmity to its great poſſeſſor John of Gaunt. Of the preſent remains, part is converted into barracks, and part to a loathſome priſon, which it is to be wiſhed, for the honour of humanity, may ſoon be removed, together with its ruins, ſo diſgraceful to the ſcenery of the river and its vicinity.

Adjoining theſe ruins, Somerſet-place, that immenſe and extenſive fabric, though far from being completed, muſt neceſſarily claim our attention, by raiſing ideas of magnificence in the mind of the ſpectator; it is

erected on a noble terrace fifty-three feet wide, and the building, when finiſhed, will extend about eleven hundred feet. From this terrace the ſcenery of our noble capital, and juſtly-famed river Thames, taken in any point of view, exceeds, in my judgment, every thing of the kind in this country.

THIS elegant ſuperſtructure is ſupported on a rough ruſtic baſement, adorned with a lofty arcade conſiſting of thirty two arches, each twelve feet wide, and twenty-four high. The grand ſemicircular arch in the middle of the baſement is, as I am informed, for the reception of the King's barges. The length of the arcade is happily relieved by projections, diſtinguiſhed by ruſticated columns of the Tuſcan order.

ON the terrace the ſouth or principal front conſiſts of a ruſtic baſement, over which the Corinthian order prevails, and muſt be allowed

The Grenville Library



Design for a bridge near Somerset place by Thos Sandby Esqr RA

lowed to have an air of magnificence; yet this front, conſidered as a grand aſſemblage, has been deemed cenſurable, as conſiſting of too many diſtinct parts, and not forming one complete and perfect whole.

THE dome in the center is certainly too ſmall for the extent of the building, it ſhould have had a diameter nearly equal to the central projection, whereas it is but the breadth of the periſtyle over which it is placed.

I HAVE the pleaſure of communicating to the public the annexed elegant deſign for a bridge, by Thomas Sandby, Eſq. Profeſſor of Architecture to the Royal Academy, which if thrown acroſs the Thames from the weſtern extremity of Somerſet-place, would in a great meaſure remove the objection that has been raiſed to the length of that building, and add a ſpecimen of taſte and magnificence to the public works of this great city, ſur-

paſſing any thing it has yet received. This deſign was made by the ingenious architect for the purpoſe of illuſtrating his lectures on the ſubject of bridge-building, and from the view before us, we have ample proof of his ability, in a happy combination of the moſt elegant forms, with all that can be attained in point of utility.

It conſiſts of ſeven principal arches, each ninety-two feet wide. The piers are adorned with Doric pilaſters, and a noble entablature, each wing contains various apartments, and is crowned with a dome ſixty-ſix feet in diameter. Over the center arch is an ornamental building compoſed of the Ionic and Corinthian orders. The piers are conſtructed with niches for ſtatues, and pannels for bas reliefs.

At each end, the entrance to the bridge is through a grand arch forty-ſix feet high, and twenty-

twenty-three wide, leading to the carriage-way, which is fifty-five feet in breadth; at each ſide of that arch is a ſmaller one for foot paſſengers, continued to a covered colonnade of the Ionic order, where the foot-way between the columns is thirteen feet broad. The bridge, including its wings, extends one thouſand and ſixty-two feet, and its height to the upper balluſtrades in the center and wings one hundred and twelve feet.

I CANNOT quit the ſubject of Somerſet-place without adverting to the Strand front, which is deſervedly admired as being the moſt elegant part of the edifice; it conſiſts of a rich and ornamental ruſtic baſement ſupporting an excellent example of the Corinthian order, containing a principal and attic ſtory. The decorations of this front are in a ſuperior taſte, and do honour to the ſcientific knowledge of the architect; it has, however, not eſcaped the criticiſm of ſome who have thought

thought the baſement too predominant, being nearly the ſame height as the order above.

At the grand entrance of this building, the arches are likewiſe deemed too high for their width, and are thought to injure the general effect of this elegant façade; but had the architect been leſs circumſcribed in ſpace, he would undoubtedly have obviated this objection.

Entering the quadrangle, an excellent ſtatue of Father Thames, modelled by Bacon, will, from its ſuperior merit, claim the world's attention; but we are ſorry to add, that it is a general remark that this river God is totally miſplaced, and ſo far removed from his proper element, as to induce us to believe that from indignation and diſguſt, he will not, under theſe circumſtances, be prevailed upon to diſpenſe the bleſſings of his urn.

The

The erect figure above it is tame and feminine, and in merit much inferior to the reſt of the compoſition.

Some objections have been made to the height of three ſides of the quadrangle; but if there are parts in the external of this great and magnificent undertaking, which to nice and critical obſervation may appear cenſurable, few ſuch objections can reaſonably be made to the internal, where utility in general will be found to prevail in every department.

The oppoſite ſhore of the river Thames, though not rich in public buildings, has yet ſome works in art and ſcience that demand our attention. In Mrs. Coade's manufactory of artificial ſtone will be found numberleſs ſtatues, buſts, vaſes, pedeſtals, and every architectural enrichment known to the ancients or moderns, with their foliages and moſt minute

nute ornaments, all of which are executed with more delicacy and ſharpneſs than is to be found in the beſt ſculptures, and at leſs than half the expence.

THE durability of the various articles produced in this work, as far as the experience of twenty-three years can aſcertain, leaves no doubt but that that deſirable quality will be annexed to its other recommendations. The arcanum of the compoſition ſeems to reſt with the proprietors, as ſeveral attempts have been made to eſtabliſh works on a ſimilar plan, but none have as yet ſucceeded. The moſt elegant and expenſive production I have ſeen from this manufactory, is the ſcreen in the chapel of St. George at Windſor, where every minute Gothic ornament and projection is retained, and with apparent ſuperiority to any performance of the chiſſel. When we conſider that theſe nicer productions are burnt or baked in a kiln, it becomes

becomes matter of aſtoniſhment that they preſerve with ſo much delicacy their original and proper form.

Not far from Mrs. Coade's, on the banks of our Thames, is to be found in the higheſt ſtate of cultivation, the richeſt and perhaps the moſt diverſified vineyard the world can boaſt, where the various productions of the grape yield every luxuriant wine that can be named, from "humble port to imperial tokay," and from which fertile production, we have no longer reaſon to dread the failure of foreign vintages. Such is the magic power of the ſoil of Mr. Beaufoy, the proprietor of this prolific ſpot.

On this ſite ſtood Cuper's Garden, which derived its name from one Boyder Cuper, a gardener in the Arundel family at the time this ſpot was in the hands of Lord Arundel. Here many damaged ſtatues from this noble

Lord's collection were lodged, on the demolition of Arundel-houſe, which ſtood on the ſite now called Howard-ſtreet, on the oppoſite ſhore.

A LITTLE below this place a new ſtructure has been lately erected, called the patent ſhot manufactory. It is near one hundred and fifty feet high, about nineteen feet in diameter, and works half a tun of lead in an hour. It coſt near ſix thouſand pounds, but cannot be conſidered as an object ornamental to the river Thames.

THE venerable hall of the middle Temple, breaking through a thicket of trees acroſs the garden, has from the water a truly pictureſque appearence. This magnificent building was erected, according to the date on the eaſt window, which is of painted glaſs, in 1570. It is a ſpacious and well proportioned room, and the fine Gothic vaulted cieling,

cieling, which is of oak, is enriched with ornaments ſuitable to the times, and kept in good preſervation. On the ſmall pannels around the hall are painted the arms of the gentlemen who have been readers to the ſociety, they are judiciouſly placed, and have a good effect.

The Inner Temple hall is conſiderably leſs, and, from its ſtyle of architecture, is certainly of older date; there is little doubt of its being the ſame building in which we find, on the 16th of October, 1555, a magnificent dinner given at a call of Serjeants, when they ſat down to a ſtanding diſh of wax, repreſenting the Court of Common Pleas, and a bill of fare, that in length might vie with a modern bill in chancery, and from which one would ſuppoſe they had ſtript the parks of all their red deer, and the Thames of all its ſwans, having on

this occaſion convened no leſs than ninety-four of theſe birds.

About ſeven years after, in 1562, at a Chriſtmas gambol, we find the Lord Chancellor, with all the great law officers, hunting in this hall, a fox and a cat, with nine or ten couple of hounds, the huntſman blowing his horn, until the fox and the cat are ſet upon by the hounds, and killed beneath the fire.

Dudley Earl of Leiceſter was the hero of this feaſt, who on the occaſion was called Palaphilos Prince of Sophie, and was ſuppoſed to be entertained by a perſon ſtiling himſelf a Sovereign Prince, when ſupper being ended, "the Conſtable Marſhall preſented himſelf with drums afore him, "mounted on a ſcaffold borne by four "men, and goeth three times round about "the

" the harthe crying aloud, A Lord, A Lord,
" &c. then he deſcendeth and goeth to
" dance, &c. and after he calleth his court,
" every one by name, one by one, in this
" manner:

" Sir Francis Flatterer, of Fowlehurſt,
" in the county of Buckingham.
" Sir Randle Rackabite, of Raſcall-Hall,
" in the county of Rakehell.
" Sir Morgan Mumchance, of Much
" Monkery, in the county of Mad
" Mopery.
" Sir Bartholomew Baldbreech, of But-
" tockſbury, in the county of Breke-
" neck."

" THIS done, the Lord of Miſrule addreſ-
" ſeth himſelf to the banquet, which ended
" with ſome minſtrelſye, mirth and danc-
" ing, every man departeth to reſt."

WITH

WITH ſuch mummeries were our ancient ſages in the law, and rulers of the land, content to regale themſelves; and it is to be regretted, that as elegance and refinement have progreſſively increaſed in later times, the ſtatues have become more voluminous, and bills in chancery have lengthened in the ſame ratio.

THE recent improvements to the Temple Gardens, and embankments into the river, have added greatly to the views from the Thames, and it were to be wiſhed that a proper attention was paid to the regulation of the coal-lighters, by keeping them nearer to the ſhore, and not ſuffering them to block up the channel, as is frequently the caſe when a large fleet arrives in the river.

SEC-

The Grenville Library



Black-friars-bridge. &c.

Pub. for S. Ireland May 1.1799.

SECTION X.

THE noble addition of Black-friars-bridge to the river Thames, whether conſidered as an ornament, or an object of convenience to our capital, cannot but yield the higheſt gratification to the mind of every well-wiſher to the intereſt of this iſland, as well as the citizen of this great emporium of the univerſe.

THE ſpacious and numerous public roads which the communication with the borough of Southwark, and the counties of Kent, Surrey, &c. have opened ſince the erection of this bridge, evince at once the judicious choice of ſituation for ſuch a ſtructure.

IN Febuary 1754, the city determined on building a bridge on this ſpot, and in January, 1756, a petition was preſented to Parliament,

liament, in conſequence of which an act paſſed, empowering the Mayor, &c. to procure a loan of one hundred an ſixty thouſand pounds, the ſum required to complete this undertaking; the intereſt was to be paid out of the tolls granted by the act. Amongſt the many deſigns propoſed for a bridge that of Mr. Robert Milnes was approved, and the firſt ſtone laid on the 30th of October, 1760, by the then Lord Mayor. It was completed in the latter end of the year 1768, at the expence of one hundred and fifty-two thouſand eight hundred and forty pounds, three ſhillings and ten-pence.

THE length of this bridge is nine hundred and ninety-five feet; the breadth of the carriage-way twenty-eight, and of the two foot-paths ſeven feet each. It conſiſts of nine eliptical arches, the center of which is one hundred feet wide. The eliptical form, as it gives more ſpace, is well adapted to aid the navigation,

navigation, though the circular is generally allowed to be ſuperior in ſtrength. The upper ſurface of this bridge forms, in the opinion of many, too large a portion of a circle, a fault generally imputed by foreigners, and perhaps with juſtice, to moſt of our buildings of this kind. The deſign of this bridge muſt be allowed to have an ample ſhare of elegance. The Ionic pillars projecting from the piers give a happy relief to the whole, and appear ſingularly light and beautiful from the river. It were to be wiſhed that the materials for this work had been ſelected of a more durable quality, as it might then have ſhewn to poſterity the merits of its architect who ſtands a fair chance at preſent of outliving his own work. At the building of this bridge the city was authoriſed to fill up the channel of Bridewell-dock, that

" King of dykes, than which no ſluice of mud
" With deeper ſable blots the ſilver flood."

THE mouth of this creek, Stowe ſays, in 1307, was of ſuch a width and depth, "that "ten or twelve ſhips navies at once, with "merchandiſes, were wont to come to the "aforeſaid bridge of Fleete.

IT is to be obſerved that draw-bridges were at that period upon London-bridge, through which veſſels of a certain ſize might paſs, and land their cargoes in the mouth of the fleet.

FROM Black-friars-bridge, amidſt the noble amphitheatre of buildings on the London ſide of the river, the ſtately cathedral of St. Paul, at once the boaſt of art and ſcience in our country, raiſes its majeſtic dome The firſt ſtone of this grand edifice was laid on the 21ſt of June, 1675, and was completed in 1710, from the deſign of Sir Chriſtopher Wren, to whoſe extraordinary talents alone (not from any hint borrowed from the church

of

of St. Peter's at Rome, as has been generally conceived,) we owe this perfect and ſublime undertaking. The higheſt ſtone on the top of the lantern wasla id by the hand of the architect's ſon, Mr. Chriſtopher Wren, at the particular requeſt of his father.

It is a ſingular circumſtance that this work was begun and finiſhed by one architect and under one prelate, Dr. Compton, Biſhop of London, when the church of St. Peter, at Rome, was one hundred and forty-five years in building, and under the reign of nineteen Popes. Wren, in his Parentalia, mentions an extraordinary incident which occurred at the commencement of this undertaking: "That when the ſurveyor in per-
" ſon had ſet out the dimenſions of the great
" dome, a common labourer was ordered to
" bring a flat ſtone from the heaps of rubbiſh,
" to be laid for a direction to the maſon; the
" ſtone which was immediately brought and

" laid down for that purpoſe, happened to be " a piece of a grave-ſtone, with nothing re- " maining of the inſcription, but this ſingle " word in large capitals, Reſurgam;" from hence it is thought Sir Chriſtopher caught the idea of the Phœnix, which is placed on the ſouth portico, and to which he has added the motto "Reſurgam."

FROM the ſame work we are told the expence of the building was chiefly ſupported by an eaſy duty on ſea-coal brought to the port of London. If every part of the impoſt on that neceſſary article had been as laudably applied, we ſhould have had leſs reaſon to be diſſatisfied with the gallantries of Charles II.

To go into a particular detail of the excellencies of this ſuperb pile of building, it is preſumed will not be expected within the narrow limits of this work, nor can I, by my

my feeble eulogium, add one iota to the fame of its great architect, whoſe genius may be ſaid to have awakened the ſpirit of ſcience in our country.

Sir Chriſtopher Wren died at the age of ninety-one, on the 25th of February, 1723, and was interred beneath the ſouth aiſle of the choir, near the eaſt end. The cloſe of the Latin epitaph written by his ſon is happily applied, but is unfortunately ſo obſcurely placed as to be ſeen only by thoſe who deſcend beneath the church:

" Lector, ſi monumentum requiris, circumſpice."

At this period, when the ſculptor's aid is called forth to decorate this noble edifice, ſurely the firſt memorial erected within its walls, ſhould have been dedicated to the fame and extraordinary talents of Sir Chriſtopher Wren.

The remark already thrown out in this work, of want of a larger ſpace, as we approach our moſt diſtinguiſhed buildings, for the purpoſe of diſplaying them to advantage, is here remarkably conſpicuous; a removal of all the buildings between this edifice and the river, not to except Doctor's Commons, and even Apothecary's Hall, would rid the neighbourhood of many intricate ways, and lay open in a proper point of view, one of the firſt ſtructures in the world.

Paul's Wharf Hill, adjoining to Doctor's Commons, as appears by the leaſes granted from the Dean and Chapter, formerly held the name of Camera Dianæ, which Camera was a ſpacious vaulted room full of mazes and labyrinths, and in which Henry II. is reported to have kept his Diana or favourite Roſamond, when ſhe was abſent from Woodſtock-park.

THE extenſive building on the Surrey ſide of Black Friars Bridge, called the Albion Mills, from its commodious ſituation, and various advantages of conveyance, &c. it is preſumed would have enabled the proprietors to have brought that valuable article corn to market at a reduced price; but report, perhaps calumny, deemed the undertaking a monopoly; and whether from incendiaries or accident, it ceaſed to be an object of diſſatisfaction, from the conflagration which happened within the laſt year.

FROM this building, the buſy ſcenery of the oppoſite ſhore, abounding in wharfs, warehouſes and various conveniencies for the aid of our commerce, gives the higheſt idea of the induſtry and conſequent opulence of our capital; yet with how much regret muſt we deplore the want of the execution of that noble plan deſigned by Sir Chriſtopher Wren, after the fire of London, in which he propoſed

poſed to have built a ſpacious wharf and quay from London-bridge to the Temple, and ſo to have ranged all the halls belonging to the ſeveral companies of the city, with proper warehouſes for merchants interſperſed, as to have rendered it at once, the moſt beautiful and uſeful arrangement of ſtructures in the world; but the hurry of rebuilding, and the diſputes at that time about property, prevented this glorious ſcheme from taking place.

AMONG the many works of Sir Chriſtopher Wren which adorn our capital, and enrich the ſcenery of the river, the ſteeple of St. Mary le Bow, in Cheapſide, claſſes as one of the firſt; the happy diſpoſition of the various orders of architecture, in which he ſeems to have ſoared above the ordinary rules of ſcience, forms an aſſemblage of taſte and elegance, rarely to be met with. This church was built on the walls of an old temple that ſtood on the Roman cauſeway, which was eighteen

eighteen feet below the level of the preſent ſtreet.

A LARGE maſs of ſtone preſents itſelf farther eaſtward, which we are told is the Manſion Houſe; but whether from its ponderous appearance it is the attic or the baſe of that building is not eaſily diſtinguiſhable.

IT has been ludicrouſly ſuggeſted that this city manſion was errected from a deſign of a ſhip carpenter, which was received in preference to one preſented by Lord Burlington; this is ſaid to have been the work of Palladio, and that upon a queſtion put at the time in a city committe, who this Palladio was; and it being anſwered, that he was a papiſt, and a non-freeman of the city of London, his deſign was immediately voted inadmiſſible. Had it been the fortune of the city, that her honors had at that time been in ſuch hands as

diſtinguiſhed them in the year 1791, this diſgrace would never have ſtained their annals. The then chief magiſtrate, ſkilled in more than ſcience, and wealthy as the eaſt, with a ſway like that of the company which rules in Hindoſtan, poſſeſſeſs at once the empire and commerce of the arts; and as the Ganges is permitted to waft no treaſure, no model of elegance, or product of value, without paying tribute to them; ſo no navigable ſtream throughout the globe can flow, without acknowledging the more extended control of his deeper ſeated empire; nor would the name of Palladio have been unknown at Guildhall, or any advantage public or private to be derived from that name have eſcaped the diſcerning eye and commercial talents of that vigilant Lord Mayor of London.

On the oppoſite ſhore, which is called Bank-ſide, was formerly the Bear Garden, or

" Britiſh

" Britiſh Circus," where Stowe ſays, " bears, " bulls, and other beaſts were kept to be " baited, as alſo maſtives in ſeveral kennels, " nouriſhed to bait them." Savage as this cuſtom may now appear, it certainly was conſidered in the time of Elizabeth as a fit entertainment for perſons of the firſt quality, and we are told that ſhe accompanied the French Ambaſſador to this ſcene of brutality, as to a rational and pleaſant amuſement.

ADJOINING to this ſpot ſtood the Globe Theatre, where our immortal Shakeſpeare is known to have occaſionally trod the ſtage; and for which, in 1603, he with his fellow commedians obtained a licence. Moſt of his plays are ſaid to have been performed here, and at the theatre at Black-friars.

DURING the hours of exhibition, which were always by day-light, a flag was diſ-

played on the roof of the building, which was of an hexagonal form, though from its name, moſt probably it was round within.



When the ſanguinary ſports of the Bear Garden were over, the ſame ſpectators, it is moſt probable, reſorted to the adjoining theatre. Taylor, the water-poet, obſerves, " that after " the players began to play on the Bank-ſide, " and to leave playing in London and Mid-

" dleſex,

" dleſex, then there went ſuch great con-
" courſe of people by water, that the ſmall
" number of watermen remaining at home,
" were not able to carry them, by reaſon
" of the court, the terms, and other em-
" ployments."

It is ſcarcely poſſible to find in the hiſtory of our amuſements, a change equal to that which has taken place in the hours of play-going, when inſtead of quitting the theatre by day-light, it is now within a few hours of the breakfaſt time of our anceſtors, before we can poſſibly reach home.

Along the banks on the city ſide of the river from Black-friars, were formerly many ſtately inns, a name given to the town reſidences of the nobility and perſons of conſequence, at that time, amongſt which may be ranked Baynard's Caſtle, which being rebuilt in 1428, by Humphry Duke of Gloceſter,

ceſter, was on his demiſe granted by Henry VI. to Richard Duke of York, who in 1458 we find lodged here with his train of four hundred men, beſides which his noble followers had each a numerous ſuite. To the north-eaſt of St. Paul's Wharf ſtood Beaumont's Inn, the reſidence of Lord Haſtings, in the reign of Henry IV. in 1465.

QUEEN HITHE or harbour is of great antiquity, poſſibly as early as the time of the Saxons; large boats, and even ſhips here diſcharged their lading. In the time of Henry III. it obtained its preſent name, being called Ripa Reginæ, or Queen's Wharf. The ſhips of the Cinque Ports were obliged to bring their corn here, and were not permitted to land it at any other place.

NEAR Vintner's-hall ſtood Worceſter-place, the reſidence of John Tiptoft, Earl of Worceſter, Lord High Treaſurer of England; and

and near it the Tower Royal, ſuppoſed to have been founded by Henry I. and "which" Stowe ſays, "was the reſidence of King Stephen." Edward III, gave the title of Inn Royal, from having been the reſidence of that Monarch. Richard II. likewiſe lodged here in 1386, when he entertained his royal gueſt, Leo III. King of Armenia, after being expelled his kingdom by the Turks. John Duke of Norfolk, the friend and adherent of Richard III. made likewiſe this tower his reſidence, having obtained a grant of it from his Sovereign.

WHITTINGTON College, in the church of St Michael Royal, from the name of its founder, ſhould not be paſſed unnoticed; it was built in 1424, and was ſuppreſſed at the reformation. The alms-houſes ſtill exiſt. The famous cat of this thrice-elected Lord Mayor is now generally underſtood to have been

been a Newcaſtle collier, a name which theſe veſſels ſtill bear.

THE Three Cranes in the Vintry was allotted, by royal order, for the landing of wines and other merchandize. For a curious account of the jovial feaſting given by Sir Henry Picart, vintner, Lord Mayor in 1356, I refer the reader to Stowe's Survey.

AT Dowgate formerly ſtood one of the Roman gates for paſſengers, who took boat here at the trajectus or ferry. In the reign of Edward III. cuſtoms were paid by ſhips reſting here, in the ſame manner as at Queenhithe. Near this runs concealed into the Thames, the ancient Wall-brook, or river of Wells, which riſes to the north of Moorfields; it paſſed through London-wall between Biſhopſgate and Moorgate, and ſo on through the city to this place.

IN

In the reign of Edward III. at the Erber, not far from hence, was formerly a noble palace, occupied by the family of the Scroops, the Nevills, and Richard the great Earl of Warwick. It was rebuilt in 1584, by Sir Thomas Pulliſon, Lord Mayor, and became afterwards the reſidence of the renowned Sir Francis Drake.

The Steel-yard has been a famous quay for the landing of merchandiſe, as far back as the tenth century: here was the Guildhall of the Eaſterlings, or the Germans of the Steel-yard; who, under certain reſtrictions, came hither with their ſhips, and were accounted "worthy of good laws." It was then called Staplehoff, or general houſe of trade of the German nations; but in the reign of Queen Elizabeth, about the year 1597, as we became more politic, and grew wiſer with reſpect to commerce, this houſe

was ſhut up, and the Germans expelled the kingdom.

Of Coal-harbour we find hiſtorical mention as far back as Edward II. A magnificent houſe was built here by a Sir John Poultney, who was four times Lord Mayor of London, from whom it was named Poultney-Inn. In 1397 it became the reſidence of John Holland, Duke of Exeter, and Earl of Huntington, who gave a ſplendid entertainment in this houſe to his royal brother-in-law Richard II.

After paſſing through the hands of many noble owners, this inn was at length granted to the Earl of Shrewſbury, by Edward VI. from whom it obtained the name of Shrewſbury-houſe.

In having thus adverted to the many ancient

cient buildings which once graced the bank of our river Thames, and to the royal and noble poſſeſſors of them, I hope I ſhall not be cenſured as having deviated from my intention; this brief account may at leaſt tend to ſhew the viciſſitudes of human ſcenes, and the high eſtimation in which this capital has ever been held, not by the mercantile orders only, but by princes and nobles of the firſt worth and conſequence.

The Greenville Library



London-bridge. &c.

SECTION XI.

WE now approach London-bridge, a ſpecimen of the Gothic labors of our anceſtors, and no leſs a ſubject of reproach to thoſe who have the ſuperintendance of it in the preſent day. This perilous abſurdity, for ſuch in its preſent renovated, if not mutilated ſtate, it preſents itſelf to a modern eye, has in its day been ſtiled the "wonder "of the world," and properly enough may now bear that epithet, it being a matter of aſtoniſhment to every one, that it is yet in exiſtence.

THE enormous ſize of the ſterlings, which are and muſt be increaſing, as the piers fall into decay, will in all probability, in the courſe of time, ſhut up the current through the few arches that ſtill remain in uſe.

Theſe

Theſe ſterlings are by no means coeval with the bridge, nor are they, as is vulgarly ſuppoſed, at all neceſſary either in aid of the depth of water, or to reſtrain the current at ebb, when the river is found navigable ſo many miles above the reach of the tide: the water is now ſo dammed up by theſe incumbrances, that at the return of the tide, it is near five feet higher above than below the bridge, and in its fall has ſo many tremendous cataracts, and hideous roarings, as to fill the mind of the ſpectator with horror.

When the nuiſance of the houſes on the upper part of this bridge was removed in 1756, it is matter of aſtoniſhment that the whole of this diſgraceful lumber was not taken away. The expence which has been incurred, on a moderate computation, within the laſt century, would have defrayed twice the charge of building an elegant ſtructure,

and

and would probably have ſaved the lives of perhaps thouſands of his majeſty's beſt ſubjects, the induſtrious and laborious poor.

AMONG the many dreadful calamities that have happened near this bridge, the premeditated death of Mr. Temple, only ſon of Sir William, of whom I have had occaſion to make mention in this work, is deſerving notice. On the 14th of April, 1689, he hired a boat on the Thames, and directing his waterman to London-Bridge, (having previouſly filled his pocket with ſtones) there plunged himſelf into the ſtream, and inſtantly ſunk to riſe no more. The apology for this raſh action was thus worded in a note, found in the bottom of the boat.

" MY folly in undertaking what I could
" not perform, whereby ſome misfortunes
" have befallen the King's ſervice, is the
" cauſe of my putting myſelf to this ſudden
" end.

" end. I wiſh him ſucceſs in all his under-
" takings, and a better ſervant." The ſingular reflection of his father on this occaſion,
" That a wiſe man might diſpoſe of himſelf,
" and make his life as ſhort as he pleaſed"—breathed more the principles of ſtoiciſm, and of the philoſophy of Zeno, than of parental affection, or the leſſons of Chriſtianity.

The width of the river is here nine hundred and fifteen feet, and the bridge conſiſts of nineteen irregular arches, each ſo unlike its neighbour in ſize and ſhape, as to baffle any attempt at criticiſm. This bridge was conſtructed in 1176, by one Peter, Curate of Colechurch in London, a perſon high in reputation for his architectural ſkill; he died four years before it was finiſhed, which was in 1209, a period of thirty-three years; it was completed by three merchants of London. The architect was interred in a chapel erected at his own expence, on the

the eaſt ſide of this bridge. In the year 1758, two years after the demolition of this and other buildings, it was deſcribed as a beautiful arched Gothic ſtructure, ſixty-five feet long, twenty broad, and fourteen high, paved with black and white marble, and in the middle a ſepulchral monument, wherein was depoſited the remains of Maſter Peter the Curate. This chapel had an entrance from the river by a winding ſtair-caſe, and likewiſe one from the ſtreet, and was therefore calculated to receive the prayers of thoſe who travelled by water as well as by land.

An anecdote of the anceſtor of the Duke of Leeds, as an act of ſingular gallantry, is not unworthy of record here. Edmond Oſborne, in the year 1536, was an apprentice to Sir William Hewitt, a cloth-worker, who reſided on this bridge, at which time a ſervant maid, playing with the only child of

her maſter at the window, accidentally let it fall into the river: young Edmond, who was witneſs to the calamity, inſtantly plunged after it, and fortunately reſtored the infant to its afflicted parent. The reward of this ſpirited action was, at a proper period, the hand of the fair daughter, and with it the knight's lands and beeves: Many wealthy and noble ſuitors, (among whom was the Earl of Shrewſbury,) had paid their addreſſes to this damſel, yet the gallantry of Edmond obtained the preference, and he became Lord Mayor of London in 1582; his portrait is now at Kiveton, the ſeat of the Duke of Leeds, in his magiſterial habit, with gold chain and bonnet.

At the ſouth end of London-bridge, in the reign of Queen Elizabeth, mills were conſtructed for grinding corn, in order to ſupply the poor with flour at a reaſonable rate in times of ſcarcity. In the ſame reign,

in

in 1582, an engine was erected here to ſupply the city with water, by Peter Morice, a Dutchman, who obtained a leaſe of one arch for five hundred years, at the annual rent of ten ſhillings, and in two years after, from the great utility experienced in this undertaking, he procured a ſecond, ſince which two other arches have been included in this work, and in the year 1701, the whole was ſold by the repreſentatives of Morice to Richard Soames, citizen and goldſmith, for the ſum of thirty-ſix thouſand pounds, after which this property was divided into three hundred ſhares, at five hundred pounds each, and the proprietors obtained a charter of incorporation.

ADJOINING to the bridge is Fiſhmonger's Hall, the only ſpecimen of the range of city halls along the river towards the Temple, agreeable to the idea of Sir Chriſtopher Wren. The ſouth front of this building is of brick, with ſtone coins; it is decorated with a por-

tal of the Ionic order, and a ſuitable pediment, forming altogether a happy combination of ſtrength and elegance. In the great hall is a large wooden figure of Sir William Walworth, whom Stowe calls "the glory of their company," but of whom he ſays, "they "know nothing more than that he ſlew Jack "Straw, which is a mere fable;" he likewiſe ſays of the fiſhmongers, "that they are men "ignorant of their own antiquities." They have however ſince diſcovered by the inſcription that appears under the figure, that it was not Jack Straw, but Wat Tyler, whom the worthy knight ſlew "in his alarmes;" and could Maſter Stowe now witneſs the decorations of their tables on Court and other days of feſtivity, he would be lead to acknowledge, that what they then wanted in antiquarian ſkill, is now amply compenſated by their information in the culinary arts.

THE noble pillar, emphatically called the Monument,

Monument, which though Pope ſays, it " lifts its head and lies," may yet be declared in all its parts, to ſpeak one laſting truth to poſterity, that it is the paragon of modern excellence in building; and may even vie in ſome reſpects, with the moſt celebrated columns of antiquity conſecrated to the name of Trajan and Antoninus, both of which it exceeds in height.

THE Biographical Dictionary ſays, that " Sir Chriſtopher Wren built the Monument " hollow, that it might ſerve as a tube to " diſcover the parallax of the earth, by the " different diſtances of the ſtar in the head of " the dragon, from the zenith, at different " ſeaſons of the year; but finding it was li- " able to be ſhaken by the motion of the " coaches and carts, almoſt conſtantly paſ- " ſing by, laid that thought aſide." This noble column is of the Doric order, and fluted; the height is two hundred and two feet,

feet, and on its pedeſtal is a bas-relief ſculptured by Gabriel Cibber: the truth of the allegory I ſhall not here diſcuſs; it was begun in 1671, and finiſhed in 1677, at an expence of fourteen thouſand five hundred pounds; the damage ſuſtained by the dreadful conflagration at that period was eſtimated at ten millions, ſeven hundred and ſixteen thouſand pounds; and we can only regret the wretched choice of ſituation for this elegant column; had it been placed at the top of Cheapſide, it would as well have informed us of the dreadful calamity it is meant to perpetuate, and have been a ſplendid addition to the public buildings of our capital.

A FANATICAL preacher, at the time, after deſcanting on the various cauſes why ſuch a calamity ſhould have been permitted, defines it to have evidently ariſen from the city's gluttony; for "that it commenced at "Pudding-lane, and ended at Pye-corner."

NEARLY

NEARLY oppoſite to the Monument formerly ſtood the reſidence of our valiant Edward the Black Prince; Stowe ſays, in his time it was made a common hoſterie or inn, having a black bell for its ſign.

THE beautiful ſpire of St. Dunſtan's in the Eaſt, cannot fail to attract the attention of the curious obſerver from every point of view. The geometrical ſkill of Sir Chriſtopher Wren has no where appeared more conſpicuous than in this bold attempt of placing the ſpire on the top of four Gothic arches, a baſe that ſeems ſo inſecure as to fill the mind with apprehenſions for its ſafety, while we have had experience of its braving the tempeſts for more than one hundred and twenty years, and have reaſon to believe it will yet continue for ages to come.

OF the Cuſtom-houſe little can be ſaid in its commendation, as a public building; the

want

want of ſpace within, and on the quay, to tranſact the immenſe buſineſs of this great city, is ſo notorious to the mercantile world, as to afford matter of aſtoniſhment that ſome means have not yet been found to remove the whole; and by erecting a more extenſive ſtructure, and giving a greater ſpace of quay towards the river, to render this ſpot as well an ornament to the city, as a convenience to the merchants of this great emporium of commerce.

Of the Tower of London, that part of it called the White Tower, makes a grand addition to the ſcenery of our river; its formidable appearance naturally leads the mind back to that period when the defence of our capital was more an object of attention than its commerce. This building has long borne the appellation of Cæſar's Tower, but on what authority we are yet to learn: it was

erected



Tower of London.

The Getty Library

erected in the year 1078, in the reign of William the Conqueror, and under the direction of Gundulph Biſhop of Rocheſter, who, while he was employed here, Stowe tells us, "was lodged in the houſe of one Elf-"mere, a citizen of London." This building originally ſtood by itſelf, but in the year 1092, received the caſtellated addition on the ſouth ſide, towards the Thames, which was called St. Thomas's Tower, beneath which is what is denominated Traitor's-bridge.

In the reign of Richard I. this tower was incloſed by Longchamp Biſhop of Ely, with embattled walls and a ſpacious ditch, which communicated with the river. For the many additions and improvements it has ſince received, as well as for its internal decorations, I refer the reader to the particular hiſtory of the place, which, at preſent harmleſs and inoffenſive as it may ſeem, once diſplayed ſcenes of horror, perhaps greater than were even

imagined in the Baſtile, and theſe perpetrated in the name of religion, a convenient maſk, under which, in ſome degree, were diſguiſed the luſt and caprices of a tyrant.

Our attention is now pointed to the glorious ſcene which preſents itſelf from Tower-wharf down the river, through what is called the Pool; where groves of ſhipping of all nations appear emulous to unlade their burthens, from each quarter of the globe, into the lap of Britannia; and

——"Where the crowded ports
"With riſing maſts, an endleſs proſpect yield,
"With labours burn, and echo to the ſhouts
"Of hurried ſailor, as he hearty waves
"His laſt adieu, and looſening every ſheet,
"Reſigns the ſpreading veſſel to the wind."

Through this immenſe maritime foreſt, we have a comparative view at once of the wealth

wealth of every port in Europe; each veſſel here diſplaying its variegated colours, to denote from whence it bears that produce which adds to the wants, and even luxuries of our capital.

The various docks and vaſt piles of building that range along the ſhores of the river, which are principally occupied by ſea-faring and commercial people dependant on its navigation, afford a ſcene of laborious induſtry ſtrongly characterizing the ſpirit and commerce of the country. The erecting of houſes along the ſhore from Wapping, ſeems to have been in the time of Elizabeth, a matter of good policy to preſerve that neighbourhood from the frequent inundations of the river, by obliging the inhabitants to defend their own banks.

The narrowneſs of the ſtreets on this and the oppoſite ſhore may be accounted for by

the regulations made in 1656, when we find to prevent the increaſe of building, all new works then carrying on within ten miles of London, were obliged to have four acres of freehold land laid to them, except ſuch buildings as ſhould be raiſed below London-bridge within two furlongs of the Thames, and belonged to mariners and ſhip-builders.

At Rotherhithe they ſeriouſly claim the credit of having produced Dean Swift's Captain Lemuel Gulliver, whom he deſcribes to have lived in Love-lane, in that pariſh, and where ſome credulous old people are now happy to ſhew the identical houſe in which he reſided.

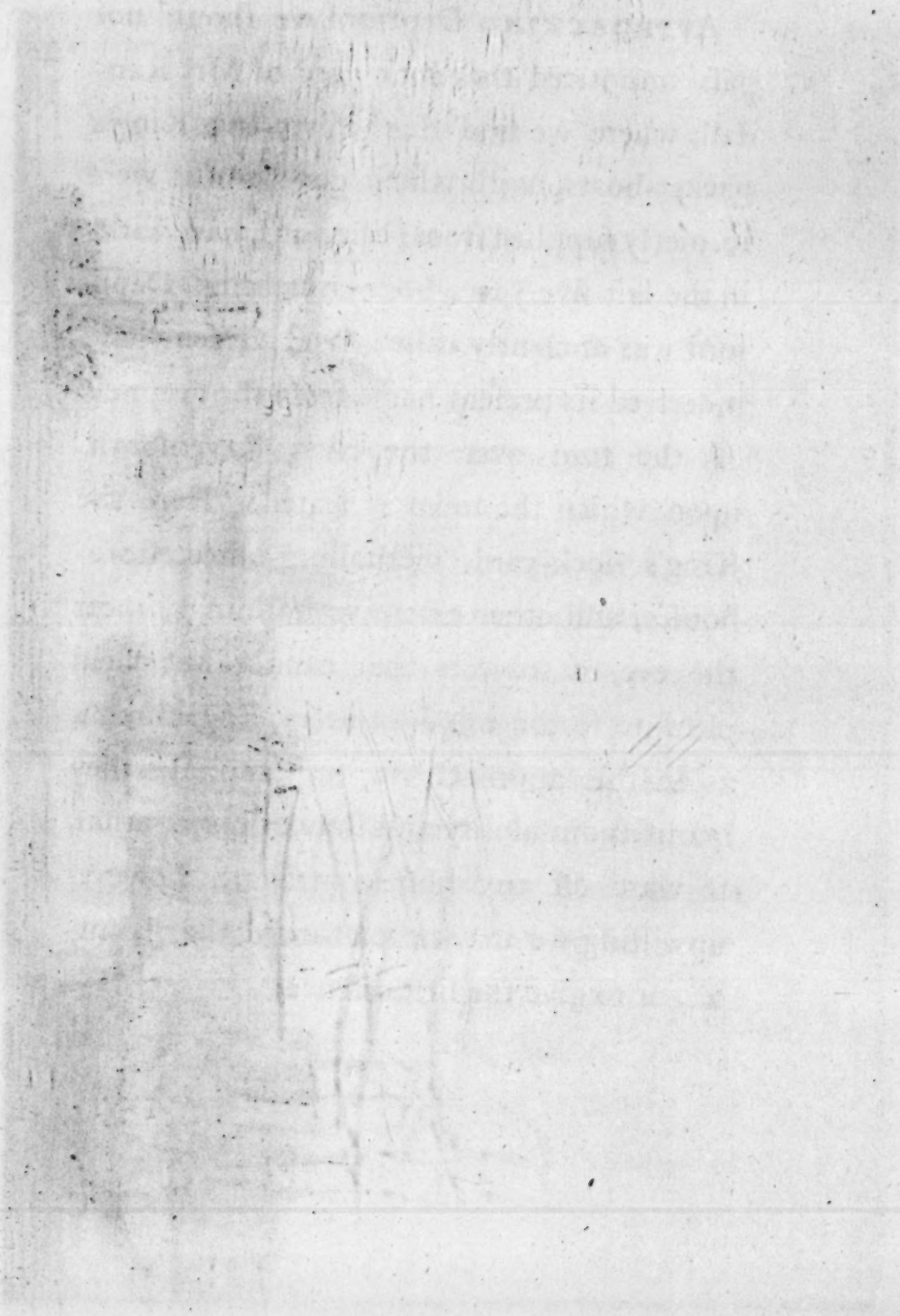
Below Rotherhithe is what is called Cuckold's Point: Horns, as is generally the caſe, diſtinctly mark the ſpot; the hiſtory of theſe horns runs thus: That King John having kiſſed a miller's wife at Eltham, and being detected

detected by the huſband (to quiet his feelings, by gilding his horns) gave him all the land he could ſee from that ſpot towards the river. The enormous value then ſet on the virtue of a wife, appears ſo far to exceed any eſtimate of modern times, that we are apt to doubt the truth of the relation.

An annual fair is now held at Charlton, on St. Luke's day, which is called Horn Fair, a ſcene exhibiting as much licentiouſneſs in low life, as ever has on any occaſion proceeded from the example of ſuperior ſituation.

On the oppoſite ſhore, a cut or canal, formed from the Lea River at Bow, empties itſelf into the Thames. This cut is of eſſential ſervice to the neighbouring manufactories, particularly the diſtilleries in its vicinity. At high tide there is a depth of water of near twenty feet.

APPROACHING Deptford we ſhould not paſs unnoticed the dock-yard of Mr. Randall, where we find that thirty-two King's packet-boats, with which government were formerly ſupplied from Falmouth, have within the laſt five years been launched. Deptford was anciently called Weſt Greenwich; it derived its preſent name from the deepneſs of the ford over the river Ravenſborn, upon which the town is ſeated. Here the King's dock-yard, victualling-office, ſtore-houſes, and other extenſive buildings, meet the eye, as objects that cannot but yield pleaſure to the mind of every Engliſhman, as in this approach to our capital, they manifeſt our ability and ſtate of preparation, to ward off any hoſtile attempt, however unwilling we may be to throw the gauntlet, or to give the firſt offence.





Greenwich Hospital

Pub. for S. Ireland May 1. 1799.

SECTION XII.

MINDFUL as we have been in providing the means of defence for our country, we have certainly not been leſs ſo in affording a comfortable exiſtence and quiet retreat for the brave veterans of our navy, by the erection of that ſtately pile of building, Greenwich Hoſpital. This noble edifice has, more the appearance of a regal palace, which was its firſt deſtination, than an hoſpital. The vicinity of this building had long been the reſidence of our Monarchs; and its ancient retreat bore the appellation of Placentia; but being much decayed in the reign of Charles II. was taken down by his order, and one of the preſent wings erected on the ſite, as part of an intended palace. About ten years after this Monarch's death, his grand-daughter, Queen Mary, deſirous of pro-

profecuting his plan, called in the aid of Sir Chriſtopher Wren: under whoſe ſkill and direction the oppoſite wing, called Queen Anne's building, the painted hall, grand colonade, &c. were completed.

The weſt front of this building, which is of brick, was finiſhed by Sir John Vanbrugh, then ſurveyor of the hoſpital; and is, I am informed, intended to be caſed with ſtone.

The Queen's houſe, at the extremity of this building, was from a deſign of Inigo Jones: It was at the particular order of Queen Mary left ſtanding; and the grand deſign of the hoſpital was of courſe made ſubſervient to this direction.

The north or river front of this princely ſtructure conſiſts of two ranges of ſtone buildings; in which the coupled Corinthian columns,

columns, ſupporting the pediments, afford a beautiful relief, and produce a happy maſs of light and ſhade.

THE two noble domes, which are ſupported by columns correſponding with the order below, and the grand range of colonade terminated by the diſtant riſing hills of Greenwich, combine a ſplendor of ſcenery ſcarcely to be equalled in this country.

THE great defect in this ſtructure appears to be want of height in the baſement ſtory.

THE chapel, which has been recently erected from a deſign of the late Mr. James Stuart, publiſher of the Antiquities of Athens, is the moſt complete ſpecimen of the Grecian ſtyle that I remember to have ſeen: it is ſimple, yet elegant: and its various ornaments are ſo judiciouſly adapted, as in no part to appear redundant, or ill applied.

The decorations of this chapel are principally from the deſigns of Mr. Weſt, and many of them executed in artificial ſtone of Coade's manufacture. The pulpit, which is circular, is ſupported by ſix fluted columns, made of lime-tree wood: and above is a richly-carved entablature, with ſuitable decorations.

When we conſider Greenwich hoſpital as a ſpecimen of architectural elegance, the taſte of every obſerver cannot fail to be highly gratified; but when we view it on a more extended ſcale, as an object of national beneficence, exerted in relieving the brave and worn-out veterans of the Britiſh navy, how muſt the exulting heart of every Engliſhman glow with the idea! I am proud to confeſs, that the ſcene before us ſurpaſſes all this noble river has yet produced. Here the multitudes of old penſioners, aſſembled together, or diſperſed in ſmaller groups, recounting their

their former acts of bravery, and the hazards of the boiſterous ocean, ſeem, like the gentle river that waſhes the walls of their edifice, to be ſmoothly gliding from this perilous exiſtence

——————" To that ſilent ſhore,
" Where billows never break, or tempeſts roar."

Poplar Marſh, on the oppoſite ſide the river, is a large peninſula, known by the appellation of the Iſle of Dogs; and, though flat, and unintereſting in the landſcape, is yet in its ſoil rich and fertile, producing remarkably large cattle, and a ſpecies of graſs which is eſteemed a great reſtorative in the diſtempers to which theſe animals are ſubjected. The Iſle of Dogs derives its name from having been the place where the King's hounds were formerly kept, during the royal reſidence at Greenwich.

By a wind of the river round this marſh

we paſs Blackwall, diſtinguiſhed by its docks conſtructed for the building of our Eaſt-India ſhips, which generally come to their moorings off this place, as they ſeldom go much higher up the river. The vaſt influx of wealth from the commerce of the Eaſt, or rather our deſpotiſm in that devoted country, renders it, in the minds of ſome, whoſe philoſophy and nicer feelings have never been acted upon by the more than religious influence of their pagodas, a matter of doubt, whether this acumulation of wealth has not been more than balanced by ſuch an inroad of their luxuries and vices, as ſooner or later may tend to enervate the political as well as phyſical ſtate of our conſtitution.

CHARLTON church, and the Gothic manſion of Sir Thomas Wilſon, are by their elevated ſituation placed in a conſpicuous and pleaſing point of view. Upon the river, a little below Charlton, the attention is caught by

by an object of the firſt conſequence to our country, Woolwich—famed as the "mother "dock of our royal navy," and which is ſaid to have furniſhed as many men of war as any two docks in England. Here the ſpacious magazines of maſts, planks, pitch, tar, &c. and the warren ſtored with guns, mortars, and every other inſtrument of deſtruction, ſeem to bid defiance to any hoſtile attacks in times leſs tranquil than the preſent, and to give a degree of ſecurity to the feelings of the moſt timid politician.

The Royal Military Academy at Woolwich was built in 1719: here forty-eight gentlemen cadets are admitted, but none under the age of twelve years; they are taught Latin, French, Mathematics, and every branch of military ſcience neceſſary to qualify them for the ſervice of the artillery, and the buſineſs of engineers; the whole expence is defrayed by government.

The

THE hulks lying off Woolwich, in which near three hundred wretched convicts are confined, preſent a ſcene on our river, that it were to be wiſhed could be removed. Might not the lead, or other mines, and repairs of our roads, give more uſeful employment to theſe people, whom the law has wiſely doomed to an examplary puniſhment?

IT is a ſingular circumſtance that the pariſh of Woolwich is ſaid to contain as much land on the Eſſex as on the Kent ſide of the river. In the laſt century, many acres in this neighbourhood was laid under water by frequent inundations, at which time the diviſion of the counties was deemed to be the middle of the current. It is therefore poſſible that at the time when the embankments took place on the Eſſex coaſt, this land was given by the county as a compenſation for the damages ſuſtained by the town of Woolwich, by the encroachments then made by the river.

ver. Theſe embankments ſurround the marſhes of what is called the Devil's-houſe, of which a very ſmall ſhattered remain ſtill exiſts. This Devil's-houſe was formerly a large manſion of the family of Devall, with whoſe name the vulgar have taken this liberty. Some veſtiges of an extenſive building are yet diſcernible.

Below what is called the Gallions, the ſcenery on the Eſſex ſhore conſiderably improves, and towards Barking, a large creek is formed from the river, for the convenience of the neighbouring country.

In the beginning of the preſent century, the damage ſuſtained from inundations, at what is called Dagenham Breach, was of ſuch direful conſequence, as to become an object of national importance. It was occaſioned by the blowing up of a ſmall ſluice or trunk, made for the drain of land-waters

on

on the banks of the Thames, and was at its beginning not more than ſixteen feet broad; but for want of proper attention, the conſtant force and fall of the water, in a few years increaſed to ſo great a depth, as to extend in ſeveral branches, above a mile and a half into the country.

It is computed that more than one hundred and twenty acres of marſh ground were waſhed into the Thames by this inundation. After many unſucceſsful projects, carried on at an enormous expence by the land-owners, to ſtop up this breach, it was at length relinquiſhed by them as impracticable; Parliament, however, conſidering it as a circumſtance worthy their attention, and highly neceſſary for preſerving the navigation of the Thames, appointed truſtees for conducting this work.

On the 26th day of January, 1715, they entered

entered into a contract with a Captain John Perry, for making up and ſtopping the breach in the levels of Dagenham and Havering, and for ſo effectually excluding the water, as to leave no leakage of the fourth part of an inch, even at the higheſt tides. This arduous work was accompliſhed in leſs than two years, for twenty-five thouſand pounds, the ſum agreed upon between the Captain and the Truſtees.

On the ſummit of a hill near Erith on the oppoſite ſhore, ſtands the noble manſion of Lord Eardly, called Belvedere; its elevated ſituation, richly emboſomed within an extenſive thicket of trees, preſents a beautiful object, not only from hence, but for ſeveral miles, as we purſue the courſe of the river. From the houſe, the beautiful ſerpentine form of the Thames, enriched with veſſels from every quarter of the globe, proudly ſwelling their ſails at each returning tide;

and the diſtant view of our extenſive capital, compoſe as grand an aſſemblage of objects, as can be pointed out in any part of the iſland.

The collection of pictures within the Belvedere may be allowed, from the judiciouſneſs of its choice, to vie in excellence with any other of equal magnitude.

Below the manſion, the humble and lowly ſituation of Erith Church, with its ivy and moſs-grown tower, preſents a ſcene truly pictureſque: within the view is compriſed at this autumnal ſeaſon of the year, not leſs than fifteen ſail of Eaſt Indiamen, all at their moorings; a ſcene that in no other river in the world, I may venture to aſſert, can be equalled.

About two miles below Erith the river Darent, which riſes at Tunbridge, unites with

with the Thames; the chalk quarries of Purfleet on the oppoſite ſhore, convey a faint idea of the noble Cliffs of Albion, and are ſo pleaſingly combined, as to preſent a juſt and leading idea of the characteriſtical features of Engliſh landſcape.

QUITTING what is called Long Reach, the Thames now becomes much agitated, and partakes in a great degree of the briny quality of its parent ocean.

AT Northfleet a wet-dock is conſtructing within the excavations made in the Chalk Cliffs by a Mr. Cleverly, a ſhip-builder, which promiſes from its advantageous ſituation to become in time an object of much national as well as private emolument.

As we approach Graveſend, the immenſe number of Dutch and other fiſhing-boats occaſionally lying off that town, gives, at a cer-

tain diſtance, ſuch an idea of a numerous fleet, as might in former times have created ſome apprehenſion for our ſafety, notwithſtanding the military ſtrength of Tilbury-fort, and the gallantry and vigour of the troops there ſtationed.

GRAVESEND, the firſt port on our river, is well ſituated for commerce, and is famed for fiſh, filth, and aſparagus. The abbot of St. Mary le Grace, of Tower-hill, being deſirous, as is related, of "promoting the in-"tereſt of the town, obtained of Richard II. "a grant to the men of Graveſend and Mil-"ton, of the excluſive privilege of conveying "paſſengers from thence to London, on the "conditions that they ſhould provide boats "on purpoſe, and carry all perſons either at "two-pence per head, with his bundle, or "the whole boat's fare ſhould be four "ſhillings." This charter has been confirmed by ſucceeding princes; and the boats which

The Grenville Library

Tilbury Fort.



which have been rendered, of late, very commodious, are obliged to depart for London at every flood, on the ringing of a bell for a quarter of an hour; the ſame ceremony is obſerved at their return from Billingſgate, at every ebb tide.

In the year 1380, this town was burned by the French and Spaniards, who came up the Thames in row-gallies, and committed this outrage in return for the ravage and plunder of the Engliſh army in France, commanded by the Lord Nevil. Henry VIII. to prevent a repetition of this outrage, raiſed a platform of guns to the eaſt of the town, and erected Tilbury Fort on the oppoſite ſhore, which has been ſince improved as a regular fortification from a plan of Sir Martin Beckman, chief engineer to Charles II. The baſtions are ſaid to be the largeſt in England: it is doubly moated, with a counterſcarp, ravelins, &c. and on the platform are placed one hundred

hundred and ſix cannons, from twenty-four to forty-ſix pounders, beſides ſmaller ones planted on the baſtions and curtains.

If with all this force the river Thames and the capital are not ſafe from the attack of the enemy, we muſt even rely on that of the Tower of London, and the vigilant endeavours of the Maſter of our Ordnance, in a more extended application of his new ſyſtem of general fortifications. All outward-bound ſhips are compelled to anchor in Graveſend-road, till they have been examined by the officers of the cuſtoms; and a centinel is placed at the Block-houſe below the town, to give notice when they are coming up the river by firing a gun; and here the outward-bound ſhips generally take in proviſion, an eſſential advantage to the mercantile claſs of inhabitants in this town.

A little below Milton is a ſmall Gothic building,

building, not undeſerving the attention of the antiquary; it is the remains of a church or religious houſe, now uſed as a barn: near which a new coal-wharf has been lately eſtabliſhed, where coals are landed to avoid the port duty, a practice not uncommon on the Eſſex ſide of the river, though novel here; and from which the neighbouring country is ſupplied with that article, ſix-pence per buſhel cheaper than at Graveſend.

NEAR the town of Cliff, begins a part of the river which is called the Hope; the view from whence of the Chalky Cliffs, on the Kentiſh ſhore, and the more extended ſcenery of the Eſſex hills, affords no unpleaſing proſpect; here the river widens conſiderably, being half a league acroſs, and at ſome certain boiſterous periods, when the wind and tide oppoſe each other, the damage done to the ſhipping is very conſiderable.

AT

At the Iſle of Canvey on the Eſſex ſhore, we cannot help noticing the ſingular appearance of empty cockle-ſhells that cover the ſtrand for a conſiderable diſtance, and have been there obſerved as long as can be traced by the memory of man.

At the extremity of this iſle a branch of the Thames forms what is called Lea Road, on the bank of which is affixed a ſtone denoting the boundary of the city juriſdiction on the Eſſex ſhore; it is dated anno 1285.

Below this place the beacon called the Nore Light, appears full in view; it is fixed in the hulk of a Dutch veſſel, ſtationed nearly in the center of the Nore, between what is called Shoebury Neſs, and the Iſle of Sheppey.

The breadth of water between Shoebury Neſs on the Eſſex coaſt, and the weſtern extremity of the Iſle of Grain in Kent, may

may properly be termed the mouth of the Thames; it is about ſix miles acroſs. Here our majeſtic river loſes itſelf in the embraces of the ocean, whoſe ſpacious boſom expands itſelf far beyond the reach of ſuch objects of pictureſque beauty as have been delineated in this work, and ſeem to call for powers of deſcription exceeding the ordinary ſtandard of proſe compoſition.

UNDER this impreſſion I cannot more happily cloſe my ſubject, than in the elegant and nervous language of a modern bard, whoſe animated verſification is ſo immediately adapted to the preſent enquiry, and ſo beautifully illuſtrative of the glorious ſcenery before us:

——— " Now the ocean bay
" Beneath the radiance gliſters clear and pale;
" And white from farre appears the frequent ſail,
" By Traffic ſpread. Moor'd where the land divides,
" The Britiſh red-croſs waving in the gale,
" Hulky and black, a gallant warre-ſhip rides,
" And over the greene wave with lordly port preſides.

——————" Oh, glorious, happy care!
" To bid Britannia's navies greatly dare,
" And through the vaſſal ſeas triumphant reign,
" To either India waft victorious warre,
" To join the poles in Trade's unbounded chain,
" And bid the Britiſh Throne the mighty whole ſuſtain."

FINIS.



Printed by C. Clarke, Northumberland Court, Strand.

The Grenville Library